

Title	Director of Public Health Annual Report Healthy Places, Healthy Futures – Growing Great Communities
Date	27 September 2018
Report of:	Director of Public Health Dr. Jane O’Grady
Lead contacts:	Dr. Jane O’Grady 01296 387423

Purpose of this report:

This report presents the Director of Public Health Annual Report and asks the Health and Wellbeing Board and its member organisations to identify the actions they will take in response to the recommendations in the report.

Summary of main issues:

It is a statutory duty for the Director of Public Health to produce an annual report on the health of their population. While it is the duty of Buckinghamshire County Council to publish the report, the report is an independent report for all partners in Buckinghamshire.

The theme of this year’s annual report is the vital importance of the places and communities in which people live to their health and wellbeing. This is particularly relevant at a time when the population of Buckinghamshire is growing, changing and ageing and there are plans for significant housing growth and infrastructure developments in Buckinghamshire over the next 20 years. It is estimated that health care accounts for only 10 to 25% of our health and that the social, economic and physical environment accounts for at least 60%. The focus of this report is closely aligned to Priority 5 in the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy “*Support communities to enable people to achieve their potential and ensure Buckinghamshire is a great place to live*”

Where we live can influence how happy we are, whether we know our neighbours, how strong community ties are and our opportunities to live healthy lives. It can also influence how well children develop and how they do at school, crime levels, fear of crime and economic productivity. All these factors interact and can influence our health and risk of developing a wide range of long term conditions such as high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer and mental health problems.

The report sets out a brief overview of the health and wellbeing of Buckinghamshire residents, and focuses on six areas of the physical and social environment that play an important role in health and wellbeing: community life; housing; healthy travel; air and noise pollution; healthy food; and the natural environment.

The report also identifies that children, older people and people with existing poor health are more vulnerable to the impacts of adverse living conditions such as damp or cold housing, air and noise pollution and certain groups are also more likely to be exposed to adverse environmental conditions such as people on low incomes.

The report also includes an update on the recommendations from last year's annual report and an executive summary.

On average Buckinghamshire residents are some of the healthiest in the country but too many people are still living with potentially avoidable disability and long term conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke. It is possible to prevent or delay the onset of a wide range of long term conditions by altering the way we live our lives and the places we live.

Improving the health of our residents makes sound economic sense and reduces demand on health and social care and other public sector services. As our population grows and ages it is more crucial than ever that all our residents start well, live well and age well to help everyone achieve their potential and get the most out of life and delay or prevent the onset of ill health. Planning for and investing in the health of our population should be regarded as a key infrastructure investment in our Buckinghamshire and take the same long term view as planning for other county infrastructure.

A wide range of people and organisations can influence whether the places we live promote or harm our health including residents and communities, community, voluntary and faith groups, local authorities, developers, schools, businesses and the NHS. The report highlights the importance of involving residents of all ages and abilities in designing and shaping the places they live and identifies several useful resources which can be used by communities to help identify and prioritise improvements they might want to make.

This report aims to stimulate conversations and action across partners and communities in Buckinghamshire to promote health and wellbeing through influencing the environments in which we live and makes several recommendations for all partners.

The recommendations in the Director of Public Health Annual report are:

1. The promotion and protection of the health and wellbeing of everyone who lives and works in Buckinghamshire should be a major consideration when planning new developments or improving existing developments. This should be supported by health impact assessments where appropriate, to understand the impact on health and wellbeing of these changes, particularly for those most vulnerable and with the greatest risk of poor health.
2. Where possible, local authorities and developers should engage communities in co-designing new developments and making improvements to existing developments. They should ensure input from a wide range of current and future residents of all ages and abilities to ensure developments work for all.

3. Local authorities, communities, town and parish councils and local area forums should use this report to consider how they might work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their residents, drawing on the assets in their communities and their local knowledge of what might need to change.
4. The public and private sector, voluntary, community and faith sector including local authorities, the NHS, schools, universities and businesses should use this report to consider how they can help improve health and wellbeing through their actions that impact on the environment or strengthen communities in Buckinghamshire. This can include the services they provide, their policies on community engagement and co-design of services with communities, travel, land use and corporate social responsibility.
5. We should, where possible, encourage planning for new and existing developments to:
 - Be socially inclusive- welcoming and accessible to all sections of our community. Designed on a human scale for people and taking into account the needs of children and older people and those with disabilities.
 - Provide safe, welcoming indoor and outdoor public places where people can meet.
 - Encourage physical activity, active travel and access to good public transport.
 - Incorporate natural landscaping and urban greening and good access to high quality green and blue public spaces e.g. parks and community gardens that people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy.
 - Improve access to healthy affordable food.
 - Be designed to help reduce crime.
 - Provide good quality homes using lifetime home principles and affordable housing.
 - Provide good access to employment, retail and community facilities and health services which can ideally be accessed by walking or cycling through mixed land use policies.
 - Minimise the impact of climate change and minimise air, water and noise pollution.
 - Foster strong social connections and a sense of belonging and link new and existing communities effectively.

Recommendation for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to note the Director of Public Health Annual Report and endorse the recommendations
- Members of the Health and wellbeing Board are requested to identify how their organisation can contribute to improving the health of our population through their actions on the key areas identified in the report and responses to the recommendations

- The health and wellbeing board is requested to agree its role in taking forward and monitoring the recommendations of the DPH annual report

Background documents:

<http://www.healthandwellbeingbucks.org/resources/Councils/Buckinghamshire/public-health/DPHAR/Healthy%20places,%20healthy%20futures%20DPHAR.pdf>

<http://www.healthandwellbeingbucks.org/resources/Councils/Buckinghamshire/public-health/DPHAR/Executive%20Summary.pdf>