

Bolton Council

Report to:	Cabinet		
Date of meeting:	7 th February 2022		
Report of:	Helen Lowey Director of Public Health	Report Number:	5,620
Reporting Officer:	Lynn Donkin Assistant Director/Consultant in Public Health	Telephone Number:	01204 337829
Contact Officer:	Lucy Heaton Research and Intelligence Specialist	Telephone Number:	01204 337829
Report title:	Public Health Annual Report 2020/21: The impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Bolton residents		
Not confidential			
This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.			
Purpose:	To inform of the content for ‘Director of Public Health’s Annual Report 2020/21: The impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Bolton residents’		
Recommendations:	Cabinet is recommended to note the content and the recommendations of the ‘Director of Public Health’s Annual Report 2020/21: The impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Bolton residents’		
Decision:			
Background documents:	Previous reports of the Director of Public Health: ‘Public Health Annual Report 2019/20: health and wellbeing in Bolton, an overview’ published at https://www.boltonjsna.org.uk/annualreport		

Consultation with other officers				
Finance	No	23/11/21	Lisa Butcher	
Legal	Yes	23/11/21	Elizabeth Cunningham Doyle	
HR	No	19/11/21	Frankie Rowbotham	
Procurement	No			
Climate Change	Yes		Helen Lowey	
Equality Impact Assessment	No	13/10/21	Jenny Foy	
(a) Pre-consultation reports Is there a need to consult on the proposals?			No	
Vision outcomes Please identify the appropriate Vision outcome(s) that this report relates or contributes to by putting a cross in the relevant box.			1. Start Well	X
			2. Live Well	X
			3. Age Well	X
			4. Prosperous	X
			5. Clean and Green	X
			6. Strong and Distinctive	X

1 INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Health and Social Care Act (2012) sets out the requirement for Directors of Public Health in England to produce an annual report on the health and wellbeing of their population and for the local authority to publish this. Local areas are free to decide on the content and structure of the report, tailoring this to best suit the local needs and circumstances. Therefore, there are no standardised templates or formats to be employed and no mandatory data sets are required.
- 1.2 This year's report has specifically looked at the impact of Covid-19 for the health and wellbeing of Bolton residents; from the virus itself as well as the impact of measures necessary to contain the spread of the virus.
- 1.3 Using knowledge built from a range of sources, the Director of Public Health's Annual Report (PHAR) for 2020/21 considers infections, hospitalisations and deaths from COVID-19 along with vaccine uptake and the underlying inequalities and wider determinants that have influenced the extent and variation in the impact of the pandemic for Bolton's residents and communities.
- 1.4 Bolton has had an unprecedented challenge in 2020/21 with the Covid-19 pandemic. All areas of the borough have been affected to various levels by the pandemic either as a directly through illness and deaths and indirect impacts of living under restrictions for longer than many other areas, and being disproportionality affected by the negative impact on the economy, education and employment as a consequence of the pandemic.
- 1.5 It is apparent that the burden of Covid-19 has not been equally shared across the borough, highlighting existing health inequalities with the impacts being amplified in the most deprived communities and the consequent widening of health inequalities.
- 1.6 For all the challenges and distress that the pandemic has brought, the response of Bolton's 'family' of communities and organisations has been incredible throughout. Our communities have all come together to help each other; digital technology has enabled people to connect and stay together; organisations across the public, voluntary and business sector have collaborated in new and creative ways; flexible working has enabled a better work/life balance and our communities pulled together to reverse the trend in Bolton.
- 1.7 Throughout the pandemic, community involvement and engagement has been at the heart of the local response in Bolton. When 'stay at home' measures were introduced many of our residents stepped up as volunteers to support the most vulnerable and our residents who were shielding by assisting with advice and information and delivering food parcels and vital medicine supplies. New alliances and groups started to emerge and were empowered through our Community Champions programme to engage with our different and diverse communities across Bolton; cascading key public health and wellbeing messages around testing, vaccination and stay at home guidance.
- 1.8 Covid-19 Community Champions were trained. These Champions are people who live and work across the borough and bring with them the insight and knowledge around their communities, providing vital feedback on some of the challenges and barriers local people have faced and helping us get the messaging and response right.
- 1.9 Bolton as a whole has pulled together to face the unprecedented challenge of the pandemic and has shown that by working together solutions are able to be found with the hope that these positive working relationships continue to strengthen in the future.

- 1.10 Recommendations are included in the PHAR to address the longer terms impacts of the pandemic and include ongoing monitoring of the report to use the data to inform future preventative work and strategy development. In addition, learning will also be taken from effective preventative work that has been carried out to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 which will not only inform the activities of the public health team in Bolton but will also be adaptable on a broader scale across the council and partners.

Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020/21: The impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of Bolton residents

Recommendations

1. COVID-19 and the mitigations took its toll on all of mental health and wellbeing; whether this is because of the virus itself or the impact of the mitigations, with many people re-evaluating their work/life balance and priorities. It is important that we support and nurture our fatigued workforce across Bolton, enable agile, encourage more cycling and walking to and from work and whilst in work, and have greater flexibility to respond to caring needs, so that we get the best out of people and have a happy, positive and successful workforce.
2. Bolton's response was incredible. We need to build on our success and continue to have new conversations with our communities; to have a sense of purpose and pride and strengthen our assets and enable power to be given to the people of Bolton.
3. Children and young people have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, particularly by the consequences of managing COVID-19. We need to ensure that the voice of children and young people are at the front of all of our strategy and policies across Bolton.
4. Older people, people with disability and people who have more vulnerabilities have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19, particularly from both the virus itself and, the impact of the management of Covid-19. We need to ensure that we have a health and social care integrated system that can respond, including a sustainable workforce, a stronger communities offer and shift in resources to more up-stream prevention thereby enabling people to live for longer within their own homes, with appropriate levels of support.
5. Businesses have recognised the need for a sustainable and productive workforce, more so than ever, which enables a strong economy. It is important that we support businesses across the Borough so that they can address health inequalities and build a sustainable workforce, regardless of business sector.
6. There are key elements of learning from our Covid response that can be applied to our local response to other challenges such as the climate emergency where we also see direct and indirect impacts fall disproportionately on disadvantaged communities. Incorporating action on inequalities across the Marmot objectives and Bolton's Vision objectives with climate change action will together help us build back fairer and greener.

2 KEY PIECES OF WORK

- 2.1 The Director of Public Health's Annual Report is prepared by an editorial group comprising Consultant in Public Health, Research and Intelligence Specialist, Public Health Intelligence Specialist, and Data and Intelligence Practitioner. Reports are published on Bolton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) website and hard copies provided to public libraries.

Recent reports:

Description	Location
<i>Public Health Annual Report 2019/20: health and wellbeing in Bolton an overview</i> Bolton's JSNA website now has a specific section created to hold current and previous Public Health Annual Reports Completed: Spring 2021	https://www.boltonjsna.org.uk/annualreport

3 IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS: (If your report includes any impacts/implications you must ensure the relevant department has signed it off)

3.1 Financial

3.1.1 None

3.2 Legal

The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health is a statutory function and forms an element of the strategic planning process for improving population health and reducing health inequalities together with the JSNA process and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy process.

3.3 HR

3.3.1 None

3.4 Climate Change

3.4.1 None

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None

4 CONSULTATION (Do you need to consult Members, Customers / Service Users, other Council Departments, Unions, will other consultation take place (eg. Planning etc)?

4.1 There is no requirement for formal consultation.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- Note the content and the recommendations of the 'Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020/21: The impact of Covid-19 on the health and wellbeing of Bolton residents'

6 APPENDIX – Director of Public Health’s Annual Report 2020/21: The impact of COVID on the health and wellbeing of Bolton residents