

**ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**  
**INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 25 OCTOBER 2023**  
**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2023**  
**REPORT BY GAIL SMITH, CHIEF OFFICER**

**ABSTRACT**

The Director of Public Health (DPH) Annual Report 2023 provides an overview of key health and ill-health metrics and risk factors that can be influenced to determine the likelihood and course of disease.

The report is designed as a reference tool for all agencies and organisations in Tayside to be informed of key population health metrics, current public health challenges and future anticipated trends. It has been designed to help focus the action required to improve the health of people living in Tayside and continue to galvanise collective effort to improve health, reduce inequalities, focus on prevention and deliver best outcomes for all.

The report is presented for awareness.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board: -

- (i) Acknowledges and supports the report and continues to consider its content to inform future strategic planning and work.

**2. BACKGROUND**

Earlier this year the World Health Organisation declared the end of COVID-19 as a public health emergency. That was not to say that COVID-19 was 'over', rather it was to indicate that, worldwide, we had now transitioned to living with the infection, like many other infectious diseases which we manage and respond to on a daily basis, in primary and secondary care, and through the continued work of our health protection teams in Public Health.

However, whilst the emergency response has been stepped down, the considerable indirect impact of the pandemic endures, and the resulting widening of health inequalities has been further magnified by current inflationary pressures and the cost-of-living crisis.

Health inequality in Tayside is starkly apparent when comparing the average life expectancy of a man living in an area of greatest deprivation (67 years) with his counterpart living in an area of least deprivation (82 years). Substance use (drugs and alcohol) and suicide are amongst the most common causes of early loss of life for people living in greatest deprivation and are often termed 'deaths of despair'.

Furthermore, other considerable public health challenges continue. Whilst the number of people who smoke is continuing to decrease, we are still managing the health impact from exposure in previous years, and rising obesity levels are taking a significant toll on people's lives also. In addition, new risks to health are becoming increasingly urgent to address, most notably the widespread emergence of vaping and the existential threat of climate change.

We all have a vested interest in improving health in our communities, for friends, families, colleagues and businesses. This report summarises some of the targeted interventions being progressed by Public Health, but it is vital that actions are prioritised across all settings to improve health and wellbeing, be it quality housing, workplace, leisure activities (where alcohol is not a focus), promotion of healthy eating and exercise.

We must continue to focus on creating the best possible environment for our communities currently and our future generations, where the protection and promotion of good health and wellbeing is the priority for all and cherished. All of us have that responsibility and, together, building on current work and seeking new opportunities, we can achieve it for the people of Tayside.

### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

Key points outlined in the DPH Annual Report:

- Life expectancy is no longer increasing across Tayside and is starting to show a slowly decreasing trend in Dundee.
- Life expectancy is strongly associated with deprivation and, currently, males born in the most deprived areas in Dundee City are anticipated to live on average 14.1 years fewer than males born in the least deprived areas.
- In Angus and Perth and Kinross, and to a lesser extent in Dundee City, there is a high proportion of adults in the 55 to 59 year and adjacent age groups. Therefore, the number of people aged over 75 in Tayside is expected to increase by 24% from 2018 to 2028.
- Premature mortality in Tayside is three times greater in the most deprived areas than in the least deprived areas. Drug and alcohol-related deaths and suicide disproportionately impact people in the most deprived areas of Tayside.
- The number of people living in Scotland with type 1 and type 2 diabetes has steadily increased over the last 10 years. Approximately 90% of new cases of diabetes are due to type 2 diabetes and a result of increasing obesity levels in the population.
- Fewer than one third of the Tayside population are of health weight, with this proportion being lower in males and in people living in more deprived areas.
- Whilst smoking attributable deaths continue to decrease, tobacco is still the single greatest cause of preventable death, disability and illness.
- Furthermore, the increasing use of vapes is giving rise to significant public health concern for future health.

With the current cost of living crisis, health inequalities are anticipated to widen further, with people living in greatest deprivation experiencing yet further poorer health and wellbeing.

In order to achieve best health outcomes for all, reduce health inequalities and ensure a sustainable health and social care system into the future, action must be focused on promoting and maintaining good health and wellbeing and preventing ill health from developing. This primarily means creating an environment where good health thrives.

An environment where physical activity is made accessible and encouraged, harmful substances – e.g. drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vapes, high fat/sugar foods – are not promoted nor readily available, people are engaged in good employment, poverty is eradicated, and action to mitigate climate change are imperative to ensuring best health for all of us, now and into the future.

### **4. PROPOSALS**

Angus IJB and HSCP continue to work with Public Health to support actions aligned within the Strategic Commissioning Plan. A significant amount of work is already underway in relation to priority one supporting prevention and proactive care of which Public Health are fully involved and engaged in.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **6. RISK**

There are no direct risks arising from this report.

**7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

**8. DIRECTIONS**

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans and this is provided for in Section 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

<b>Direction Required to Angus Council, NHS Tayside or Both</b>	<b>Direction to:</b>	
	No Direction Required	x
	Angus Council	
	NHS Tayside	
	Angus Council and NHS Tayside	

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023