

TITLE OF REPORT: Director of Public Health 2020/21	
HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - 16th June 2022	CLASSIFICATION: Open
WARD(S) AFFECTED: All	
Group Director: Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health	

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

1.1 Each year, the director of public health is required to publish a report on “*the health of the people in the area of the local authority*”. For 2020/21, the report concerns children and Covid-19. Further to the update at the January 2022 Health and Wellbeing board (HWB) the director of public health annual report (DPHAR) was published in May 2022. The HWB is requested to note and respond to the recommendations within the report. The focus of the 2021/22 report is yet to be confirmed.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The annual report from the Director of Public Health provides an opportunity to assess the local population’s health and, as appropriate, make recommendations to address identified need.¹

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860515/directors-of-public-health-in-local-government-roles-responsibilities-and-context.pdf

2.2 The report for 2020/21 was delayed due to the need to respond to the Covid pandemic but has now been finalised. It is due to be published online in April 2022.

2.3 This year, the report considers the wider impacts of the pandemic on the health of children and young people. It shows the breadth of effects that the pandemic has had, and that there is a gradient of impact.

2.4 The report was developed in liaison with stakeholders in both the City of London and Hackney, and informed by desk research. It was discussed by DLT and the Children's Senior Management Team in September 2021. A draft was also reviewed in February and March 2022 by colleagues from the Department of Community and Children's Services and considered by the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board in May 2022.

2.5 The report uses data and analysis that has been collated in the recently published 0-19 needs assessment. It goes into more detail about six issues which have impacted children during the pandemic:

- a) Poverty and deprivation
- b) Mental health
- c) Childhood immunisation
- d) Weight and physical activity
- e) Early years
- f) Access to healthcare

2.6 There are four broad areas where the report makes recommendations:
a) Controlling Covid-19 and preventing illness through vaccination. Improving all vaccination uptake and tailoring for children in specific groups is vital.

b) Catching up on what's been missed in education and healthcare - in an equitable way. Getting education and healthcare services back on track will be key.

c) Addressing obesity by supporting children and young people to eat healthily and move more, and making sure children and young people can access mental health support are both essential.

d) Closing the gaps: reducing child poverty must be a priority for all.

2.7 HWB are requested to note the report and that responses to the recommendations from partners across the City of London and Hackney are likely to arise through ongoing work.

Background Paper: Director of Public Health report - children & Covid

BACKGROUND PAPERS

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) England Regulations 2012 publication of Background Papers used in the preparation of reports is required

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