

CABINET – 17 OCTOBER 2017

Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2016/17

Comments from the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Members of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2016/17 at their September meeting and were keen to share their comments on the report with Cabinet and the Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board.

The following is an extract from the draft minutes of the Committee meeting on 14 September 2017:

“Dr Jonathan McWilliam, Director of Public Health, presented his tenth annual report to the Committee. Members considered both the strategic and local issues highlighted in the report that could be taken forward in the year ahead.

The Committee felt the report was comprehensive and easy to read, although there was some surprise at the absence of information about levels of dementia and frailty in Oxfordshire from the report.

In particular Committee members discussed the following points:

- The pressures posed by an ageing population and difficulties obtaining accurate county population figures;
- The importance of ensuring health impact assessments are completed as part of any service redesign;
- How useful it is for all organisations to have a focus on primary prevention, particularly in relation to breaking the cycle of deprivation and supporting hard to reach groups;
- The impact of loneliness and isolation on Oxfordshire communities;
- How social housing is incorporated into healthy communities and the extent to which District/City housing authorities are meeting their affordable housing targets, including meeting the housing and employment needs of people with learning disabilities;
- The importance of ensuring that health is considered in the development of Local Plans, including the extent to which the County Council Highways team is able to comment on plans in relation to air quality and how the development of new technologies, such as electric vehicles, is being taken into account;
- The links between increasing educational outcomes and breaking the cycle of deprivation;
- The effect of day centre closures on carers and health inequalities, as well as the funding of child mental health services and the effect this has on children's carers;

After considering the Director of Public Health's recommendations in the report the Committee **AGREED** to:

- Explore the implications of government plans to stop the sale of diesel cars on air quality and how the County Council is planning to update its fleet;
- Write to Oxfordshire MPs asking for their support for more legislation to reduce the levels of sugar, salt and fat in food and drink in order to combat obesity and drink related diseases;
- Recommend that the Health Improvement Board has a focus on measures to prevent and reduce the prevalence of obesity;
- Encourage the adoption of the “daily mile” in schools;
- All Councillors should be provided with information on tackling loneliness and isolation;
- Recommend that the Public Health team seek best practice and research from other countries where higher rates of breastfeeding are achieved, to inform Oxfordshire’s approach in this area;
- Recommend that District/City councils routinely include health assessments in the development of their Local Plans. HOSC is also keen to scrutinise the ensuing work on this issue.”