

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

18th June 2020

Director of Public Health Annual Report

Introduction

There is a statutory requirement that the Director of Public Health publish an annual report about the health of the residents in the local area. In previous years the annual report has been used as a vehicle to provide information about health of the local population.

This year the annual report has taken a different approach. The report shines a spotlight on a significant issue in Oxfordshire that is relevant to all partners. This issue is the hidden inequalities in the County.

Inequalities

While Oxfordshire is considered an affluent County, there are hidden inequalities in the local population. The ten most deprived wards in the County are in the 20% most deprived wards in England. The report states the case for focussing on these most deprived wards to reduce the inequalities between the least and most deprived in Oxfordshire

Focusing on wider determinants

The report outlines how the drivers of poor health are more than the individual health behaviour of people and how the wider environments, social and economic aspects of our lives will impact on our health and life outcomes.

Prevention framework and healthy place shaping

The traditional prevention approach and health services, while they still have a place in our work to tackle ill health, no longer best meet the challenges or reducing inequalities. The report looks to the prevention framework and taking an upstream approach to addressing ill health.

The environment and communities that we live in have a profound impact on accessing and embracing healthy lifestyles. Healthy place shaping provides a whole environment and whole system approach to achieving a healthier life. The report showcases examples of how communities are adopting healthier place shaping approaches to wellbeing and healthier lifestyles that meet their community needs.

The report does not make a series of recommendations, but it champions local partners and stakeholders exploring how they can work in new ways to reduce health inequalities through new approaches such as those discussed in the report.

Recommendation

The board are requested to note the Director of Public Health annual report.