

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting 7 September 2022

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Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A



Annual Review of Public Health priority actions 2021-22

Report summary:

Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organised efforts of society. Throughout our reports, we use 'public health' to cover both physical *and* mental health and wellbeing of everyone in our district.

Most people want to be in better health, but although people are living longer, many are often in poorer health. We believe we have an overarching responsibility to consider health and wellbeing in all our council activities. Everything we do aims to ensure that East Devon is a place where people want to live, work, visit and enjoy life, focusing on where there is greatest need.

Each year we look back on our work and review how we met the targets and aspirations of our Public Health Strategic Plan [linked below]. Throughout 2021/22 teams from across the council worked together, in some cases still taking on different roles to support the health and wellbeing of our residents as we emerged from the pandemic and moved into recovery phase.

As we reflect on the broad impact of the pandemic over the past two years, how can local leaders ensure that health is a better understood and important element of decision-taking? It is important to remember that these activities align closely with our priorities around mental health, poverty and climate emergency.

This Review of our activities which supported health and wellbeing in 2021-22 has been compiled primarily from achievements reported in East Devon District Council's Service Plans. It is not a comprehensive list of all activities, but provides a flavour of work by each of our services. The Review celebrates our efforts and our commitment to activities which benefitted people's physical health and mental wellbeing across East Devon. It shows how we care for equalities, fairness and levelling up.

It is timely to note how our priorities and activities correlate with those outlined in Devon County Council's recently published annual report for 2021-22 [linked below].

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Cabinet note and celebrate the contributions made by our services through these activities reviewed annually which underpin our Public Health Strategic Plan.

Reason for recommendation:

This Annual Review is recommended to help officers and members keep health inequalities uppermost in mind, so that they make the best possible use of resources and assist our communities to live and thrive together.

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact High Impact

This Annual Review of 2021-22 demonstrates how teams from across the council worked together in a joined-up approach, to support the health and wellbeing of our residents as we recover from and learn to live with COVID-19.

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information [Annual Review of Public Health priority actions 2021-22](#); [Public Health Strategic Plan 2019-23](#) ; [Public Health Implementation Plan 2022-23](#) ; [Annual Public Health Report 2021-22 - Devon Health and Wellbeing](#)

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

Report in full

[Annual Review of Public Health priority actions 2021-22](#)

1. The COVID-19 pandemic shone a light on health inequalities and their impact, and highlighted just how interconnected are health and the economy.
2. Our brief review of activities supporting health and wellbeing covers the year following the pandemic. It has been compiled primarily from the key achievements reported in [East Devon District Council's Service Plans for 2022/23](#).
3. The Review is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all activities performed in 2021/22. It provides a flavour of and celebrates work by each of our services towards our strategic aims:
 - To help more people to be healthy and stay healthy
 - To enhance self-care and support community resilience
 - To integrate and improve support for people in their homes.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications from the recommendation in this report.

Legal implications:

There are no specific legal implications requiring comment.