

Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

12 September 2013

Report of the Director for Public Health for North Yorkshire 2013

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the Report of the Director for Public Health for North Yorkshire.

2 Background

- 2.1 It is the duty of the Director of Public Health (DPH) to write an annual report on the health of the local population. This is my first report and the first since 1 April 2013 when North Yorkshire County Council assumed Public Health responsibilities.
- 2.2 We have a wealth of data on the health of our County and numerous plans and strategies to guide our collective actions. I have tried not to duplicate these sources but to use the report to focus on the basic question – what is Public Health?

3 Executive Summary

- 3.1 This report provides a “snapshot” of the health needs in North Yorkshire highlighting among others the following key features:
- There are stark differences in death rates between communities within North Yorkshire, with the highest rates of early death (under the age of 75) in areas with the highest levels of socioeconomic deprivation.
 - The population of North Yorkshire is getting older placing increasing pressure on Health and Social Care Services, but also providing opportunities for active and healthy ageing.
 - North Yorkshire has high-levels of risky drinking behaviours and binge drinking activities when compared with similar areas.
- 3.2 In addition the report illustrates everyone's role in public health through a series of case-studies in the three key domains of public health:
- Health improvement - supporting everyone to live happy and healthy lives.
 - Improving and maximising the effectiveness of health and social care services - making the most of the money we spend on health and social care.
 - Health protection and communicable disease control - protecting the population from diseases and environmental hazards.
 - The full versions of the case-studies can be found online at www.nypartnerships.org.uk/dphreport

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 Reduce the inequalities in health that are apparent across the county between the most affluent communities and those that suffer from high levels of social and economic deprivation.
- 4.2 Focus on happy and healthy ageing, helping people to maintain their health and independence as they grow older and move into retirement.
- 4.3 Continue to support Sir Michael Marmot's principle of giving every child the best start in life, and also consider how we can ensure that our young people can move from education into employment in the County.
- 4.4 Have the public's health and wellbeing as a central consideration in the decision making of all of the organisations and agencies within North Yorkshire; particularly North Yorkshire County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the District Councils, recognising that Public Health is about the big picture in our society not just individual choice and behaviour,
- 4.5 Harness the enthusiasm and sense of wellbeing that has been created by hosting the Grand Départ of the 2014 Le Tour de France, with the aim of creating a social and physical activity legacy in the County.
- 4.6 Prevent the health and social harms caused by high levels of alcohol consumption and lack of awareness of the dangers of increased drinking, not just in our town centres but in our homes.

5 Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Report of the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire 2013.

Dr Lincoln Sargeant
Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire

20 August 2013