

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 OCTOBER 2014

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH: ANNUAL REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- i. To introduce the Director of Public Health's report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the County Council now has key responsibilities across the three domains of public health – health improvement, health protection and public healthcare. This is the second opportunity the Committee has had to review the Director of Public Health's Annual report.
- 2.2. By writing an annual report, Directors of Public Health contribute to and monitor the improvement of health and reduction of health inequalities. The report outlines what is currently happening in each local government area to improve health, and sets the agenda for the future to reduce health inequalities and promote action for better health.
- 2.3. Annual reports have played an important part in public health practice ever since the early days of medical officers for health. They are a vehicle for informing local people about the health of their community, as well as providing necessary information for decision makers in local health services and authorities on health gaps and priorities that need to be addressed. Their iterative nature also allows progress to be recorded and evaluated and is a key means by which the Director of Public Health is accountable to the population he or she serves.
- 2.4. The annual report is an important vehicle by which Directors of Public Health can identify key issues, flag up problems, report progress and, thereby, serve their local populations. It will also be a key resource to inform local inter-agency action.

3. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE INTEREST

- 3.1. A well-defined annual report should inform service provision and facilitate health impact to ensure the effective targeting of resources to improve health and reduce health inequalities among its resident population. This should:

- contribute to improving the health and well-being of local populations;
- reduce health inequalities;
- promote action for better health, through measuring progress towards health targets; and
- assist with the planning and monitoring of local programmes and services that impact on health over time.

3.2. The annual reports should therefore:

- be relevant to the health of local populations with information analysed at the most appropriate population level;
- be integral to planning across all sectors and needs to promote action; and
- include a clear set of recommendations that are targeted, realistic and achievable.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 That the Committee consider and comment on the North Yorkshire Director for Public Health Annual Report 2013/2014.

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Background Documents: None