

**REPORT FOR: Harrow Health and Well
Being Board**

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| Date of Meeting: | 5 November 2015 |
| Subject: | INFORMATION REPORT – Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2015 |
| Responsible Officer: | Dr Andrew Howe, Director of Public Health |
| Exempt: | No |
| Wards affected: | All |
| Enclosures: | Building Bridges: Reducing Social Isolation and Loneliness: The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2015 |

Section 1 – Summary

This report compliments the Like Minded work on mental health services that is taking place across North West London. It focuses on social isolation and loneliness and the steps that can be taken to improve wellbeing.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Each year, the Director of Public Health must publish an independent report on health in the borough. The annual report is the Director of Public Health's professional statement about the health of local communities, based on sound epidemiological evidence, and interpreted objectively. The report should be publicly accessible.

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.

Director of Public Health annual reports 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
- Assist with the planning and monitoring of local programmes and services that impact on health over time

The 2015 report takes as a focus mental wellbeing and the impacts that social isolation and loneliness has on people's wellbeing. The second half of the report focuses on what people can do for themselves and how they can help others to improve mental wellbeing using the five key messages: Connect, Be Active; Keep Learning,; Take Notice and Give. It illustrates actions that are already happening in the borough on each of these issues.

The report does not have specific recommendations but highlights some of the broad actions that are needed to continue to address the issues across the health and local government sectors. These actions will be addressed in the associated public health work streams and others are encouraged to take these into consideration in their commissioning plans.

Section 3 – Further Information

Legal Implications/Comments

Under Section 73B(5) of the National Health Service Act 2006 The director of public health for a local authority must prepare an annual report on the health of the people in the area of the local authority.

Section 4 – Financial Implications

Whilst this report does not have any specific recommendations with financial implications, it highlights areas of potential spend that may be necessary to address the issue of mental wellbeing and reducing isolation. Such expenditure is expected to be contained within the ring-fenced public health grant and reflected in future commissioning intentions as appropriate.

Section 5 - Equalities implications

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

The report considers the health inequalities of social isolation and loneliness and the implications for mental wellbeing and identifies certain groups that are most likely to be impacted.

Section 6 – Corporate Priorities

The Council's vision: **Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow**

The Annual Public Health report will contribute to Harrow's vision in the following points:

- **Making a difference for the vulnerable**
- **Making a difference for communities**
- **Making a difference for families** Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Donna Edwards



on behalf of the*
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 14 October 2015

Name: Caroline Eccles



on behalf of the*
Monitoring Officer

Date: 14.10.15

Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Carole Furlong, Consultant in Public Health, ext 5508

Background Papers: None