

Joint Public Health Board Business plan update 30 May 2022

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr P Wharf, Adult Social Care and Health, Dorset Council
Cllr M Iyengar, Tourism and Active Health, Bournemouth,
Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council

Local Councillor(s): All

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Report Status: Public

Recommendations: The Joint Public Health Board is asked to support the following recommendations:

- 1) Agree the Public Health Dorset business plan and priority work programmes for 2022-23.
- 2) Consider developing the forward plan for the board based on the work programmes included in Appendix B.

Reason for Recommendation: Recovery from the pandemic and the move to Living with COVID-19 has now allowed the public health team to take stock and consider priorities for the coming year. Previous attempts at finalising the business plan were hampered by a high degree of uncertainty, plus ongoing responsibilities for responding to COVID-19. Publishing the high-level plan, and an outline timeline showing key deliverables for our work for 2022-23 is an important step in delivering an effective service. This is because so much of our work relies on collaboration with other organisations in our system. The forward plan for the Joint Public Health Board can be populated over a longer time period based on this business plan. The business plan will be a key

document in ensuring early Member engagement with the work of the team during 2022-23.

1. Executive Summary

This short report introduces the public health business plan for 22-23, with a recommendation that the Joint Public Health Board agree publication. Since the 16 February Board meeting, the team has undertaken significant work to clarify our role and purpose, especially given the changes coming this summer with the formal launch of integrated care systems.

In addition, the plan identifies the top 10 work programmes following a prioritisation exercise, which will help align capacity and resources to delivery over the coming year.

Appendix A contains the main report, showing how we are organising our work.

Appendix B sets out a high-level delivery timeline with more detail about some of the programmes and outputs that will need to be delivered in this financial year.

Going forwards, future board meetings will receive a monitoring report setting out progress against these deliverables.

2. Financial Implications

No direct financial implications arise from this report.

3. Climate implications

N/A

4. Other Implications

N/A

5. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

EQIA Assessments form part of commissioning for all public health services and are published in accordance with Dorset Council guidance.

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Public Health Dorset business plan for 22-23.

Appendix B – Indicative timeline of deliverables from the priority work programmes.

8. Background Papers

None.

1 Background

- 1.1. This short report provides an update on the development of the 22-23 business plan and monitoring report, and some of the programmes and key pieces of work that will need to be delivered next year.
- 1.2. The capacity of the public health team to work on non-COVID-19 programmes has improved significantly with the change in national strategy, and also the lessening of the impact of the Omicron wave(s).
- 1.3. Over the past two months it has been possible to agree our business plan, with a renewed role and purpose. The plan is not intended to capture in detail everything that the team is involved in. Instead it is looking forwards at what will need to be delivered, based on an understanding of national policy changes, commissioning needs, and local system requirements. Overall it provides a clear framework for how we organise public health work, and is designed to help with effective and efficient management, and engagement of our partners.

2 Development of the 2022-2023 business plan

- 2.1. The final plan now contains an updated list of priority work programmes, following priority setting meetings undertaken by the senior team. This will be used to better understand how our capacity should be used through the year, in order to achieve our key deliverables.
- 2.2. Further work is ongoing to develop the work programmes that were considered high priority, based on an understanding of the changing level of needs as we emerge from the pandemic. For example, mental health was considered to be a high priority. Previously we have been providing elements of mental health prevention work (e.g. training and awareness of suicide prevention), working with system partners. However, we have not previously developed and resourced a co-ordinated mental health

prevention programme that brings together all relevant activity into a single plan that will give greater visibility and cohesion.

3 Risks and challenges – update

- 3.1. Recent high staff turnover and a large number of fixed term positions may result in loss of knowledge and expertise at a time of significant change. We are developing a skills and development strategy to mitigate this by providing opportunities and a clear career path for our team members.
- 3.2. Uncertainty about future expectations around health protection roles and responsibilities makes it more difficult to stabilise the team structure in the short term whilst we wait for the national government review to be published. It may be difficult to clarify what the Public Health Dorset team roles and functions are in relation to health protection compared with the roles of UKHSA, NHSEI and the Dorset Integrated Care System. Due to considerable system change and restructuring within UKHSA, there will be the need to continue to support the COVID-19, and potentially other health protection response in the short term.
- 3.3. Integrated Care System work is a new and emerging pressure as we have not previously supported health organisations to a similar extent in recent years. For example, we are providing capacity to lead the development of the ICP strategy, Health Inequalities Strategy, as well as population health management work, and ongoing needs assessment work. It is essential we have a good understanding of our ability not to over-commit, in order to maintain a balance in delivering the rest of our business plan.

4 Conclusion and recommendations

- 4.1. This short paper provides an update on the development of business planning for Public Health Dorset. Board members are asked to agree the business plan, noting the workstream priorities in Appendix B. In addition, the Board is asked to develop the forward plan for the board based on the business plan for 22-23.