

Director's update

Joint Public Health Board

7 December 2023



National

- Major conditions strategy – starting to cut through nationally *'need to get a grip on obesity, smoking, especially link to economic productivity'*
- Surprise announcement on smoking in King's speech
 - Raising of age of sale – note NZ changing stance on this
 - Doubling of investment to Councils for smoking support via S31 grant
 - More money for enforcement, trading standards
- National suicide prevention plan updated – awaiting guidance on local requirements



Director's focus

- Supporting budget setting process in both Councils
- Refreshing ICP strategy work plan – following development session
- Working on embedding phase of Poverty Truth Commission
- Developing forward plans for health and wellbeing boards, and overview and scrutiny committees
- Starting to flesh out NHS aspect of our work, through the MoU
- Real time surveillance of sudden deaths where there is suspicion of death by suicide – regional work, paused locally



Health protection

- COVID-19 admissions low locally - nowhere near levels seen in previous waves; some outbreaks of acute respiratory infection
- Vaccination programme for booster plus flu underway - available to over-65s, vulnerable groups
- Completed work on baseline assurance for the local system - see report in pack today on health protection
- Ongoing requirements for support to migrant and asylum health



Health improvement

- Health Checks performance improving picture after end of first 2 quarters performance - report on agenda today in detail
- Contract extension agreed for children's public health service
- Working on how service might support family hubs and social care reform under each council area
- Smoking cessation - consider how new funding could be used locally (subject to legislation); reviewing performance
- Requested funding to support LiveWell Dorset navigators to continue to work in outpatient assessment centres



Healthcare Public Health

- ICP strategy work continues – workplan reviewed – agreed by ICP in October
- Principles and broad agreement for MoU with NHS approved by Joint Board in June
- Now working to agree priority areas of work with ICS
- Likely that most work will be in response to the 5 outcomes in the NHS Joint Forward Plan
- Anything else to be agreed on an exceptional basis

