

BRIEFING	TO:	Health Select Commission
	DATE:	13 th June 2019
	LEAD OFFICER (Full name, title and Directorate)	Teresa Roche, Director of Public Health
	TITLE:	2018 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health
Background		
1.	Directors of Public Health (DsPH) in England have a statutory duty to write an Annual Public Health Report to demonstrate the state of health within their communities. It is a major opportunity for advocacy on behalf of the health of the population and as such can be powerful both in talking to the community and also to support fellow professionals in across the Council and partner organisations.	
Key Issues		
2.	<p>For the previous 3 years, the annual Director of Public Health reports for Rotherham have focussed on the life course, looking at the health challenges from childhood through to older age – starting well, living well and aging well. Having completed the set across the life course, this year’s report takes a new approach, and seeks to champion the strengths of our local communities and share experiences of what keeps us healthy, happy and well.</p> <p>We asked the general public (via an article in the Advertiser, staff briefings, online and through social media, plus cascaded through voluntary sector organisations) to submit photographs which show what keeps them healthy, happy and well where they live. We then grouped these photographs by theme and found that they strongly fell into 2 main themes, community and the environment. They also captured all five of the ‘five ways to wellbeing’.</p> <p>When we look at all the factors known to influence health and wellbeing, we can see why people are right to recognise the importance of our social networks, communities and our environment. Our health is not only influenced by obvious health behaviours (such as smoking, alcohol, diet and exercise) and the health care we receive, but also by our social interactions with others, our sense of community, the environment we live in and our economic circumstances.</p>	
Key Actions and Relevant Timelines		
3.	The report concludes with recommendations that we should consider ‘health and wellbeing’ in the wider context of being influenced by everything around us and seek first to understand what is ‘strong’ in our communities and what assets we can build on together to support the health and wellbeing of our residents.	

Recommendations

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| 4. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HSC members are requested to consider and discuss the report and to support the actions in the report, in particular:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Continuing to raise awareness of the 'Five ways to wellbeing' and working together to tackle loneliness and social isolation○ Supporting the continued development and expansion of social prescribing as laid out in the NHS long term plan○ Continuing to support healthy work, through initiatives such as the 'working win' trial and promoting uptake of the BeWell@Work workplace award. |
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