

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Health Select Commission – 21 November 2024

Report Title

Public Health Peer Review

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Rotherham's Public Health function underwent Peer Review on 8th – 10th October 2024 as part of the Regional Association of Directors of Public Health network's programme. The review was undertaken based on the LGA Public Health Strengths and Risks Tool, with feedback provided in a power point presentation at the end of the visit. This report provides the Health Select Commission with the findings of the Peer Review team and presents the initial response to the recommendations.

Recommendations

That the Health Select Commission:

1. Note the findings of the Peer Review of Public Health.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 LGA Public Health Strengths and Risks Tool
- Appendix 2 PH Peer Review Storyboard
- Appendix 3 Rotherham Public Health Peer Review Feedback Slide Pack.

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Public Health Peer Review

1. Background

- 1.1 The Yorkshire and Humber Association of Directors of Public Health Network is undertaking a programme of Peer Reviews across all Public Health teams in the region as part of its Sector Led Improvement approach.
- 1.2 The Peer Reviews are being led by one of the region's Directors of Public Health, supported by the ADPH Network's Manager and a team of senior public health staff from within the region. The reviews follow standard Peer Review methodology and are based on the LGA's Public Health Strengths and Risks tool.
- 1.3 To determine the focus of the Peer Review the Public Health SMT undertook a self-assessment process using the LGA Strengths and Risks tool in April 2024, followed by a facilitated reflection session in June 2024 supported by two LGA Associates, both of whom had experience as Directors of Public Health. Based on this process three of the seven domains of the Strengths and Risks Tool were identified for further focus through the Peer Review, these were Leadership and Governance; Culture and Challenge; Making a Difference.
- 1.4 Rotherham's Peer Review was undertaken over 3 days between the 8th and 10th October 2024, by a Peer Review team led by Deborah Harkins, DPH for Calderdale.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The specific Key Lines of Enquiry agreed with the Peer Review team were:

- Leadership and Governance

Does the operating environment for Public Health in Rotherham support the achievement of the Borough's Health & Wellbeing Strategy, and are public health leaders collaborating with partners on the Health & Wellbeing Board to deliver the Board's Strategy and objectives for Rotherham and mutually beneficial outcomes through a Health in All Policies approach?

- Culture and Challenge

Does the Public Health function in Rotherham demonstrate a commitment to transparency in reporting, performance monitoring, scrutiny, and public engagement? Is public voice and community feedback integrated into decision-making processes to drive tangible change and reduce health inequalities?

- Making a Difference

Are the needs identified by the JSNA and other health needs assessments effectively embedded into public health decision-making processes, with sufficient measures in place to improve population outcomes and reduce health inequalities in line with the Borough's Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

2.2 To explore these further the review team were provided with a range of key documents relating to Public Health in Rotherham, including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Rotherham Health and Care Partnership Plan, and given access to the agendas and minutes of relevant meetings. The team then spent 3 days on-site during which they conducted interviews and focus groups, holding more than 20 meetings and speaking to more than 75 people from across the Health and Wellbeing partnership and the wider Council.

The Peer Review feedback was overall very positive, with the team identifying many strengths and delivering the following key messages: -

- Honesty, openness, and willingness has enabled us to hear from a breadth of people.
- The public health team is incredibly well respected, knows itself and adds value.
- Determination of partners to rebuild over the last ten years and the positive impact this has had on the strength of partnership working and governance.
- The Children's Capital of Culture is a fantastic example of how sharing power with children and young people is re-building trust and impacting health and wellbeing.
- Public health is effectively embedded in the wider health system and the wider health system is fully engaged in the health and wellbeing board on delivering the strategy.

The team also identified the following areas for further consideration: -

- The refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy provides the perfect opportunity to build on the huge strengths identified and the appetite to become more focussed on outcomes.
- We heard some tangible, positive examples of where a health in all policies approach was being developed and there is huge scope to go further on this.
- Is there space for looking ahead, what are going to be the potential common challenges and challenges to that partnership working and how can a public health approach support?
- In looking ahead, consideration could be given to system value for money from PH investment and forthcoming financial pressures as current contracts come to term.
- Consider improving the understanding of the providers regarding the breadth of data and information requested and how this informs the JSNA and decision-making.
- Strong sense that Public Health need to do more to engage with and work within communities of place.
- Voice of "hard to reach" communities did not feature strongly in what we heard, with some recognition that this is an area requiring focus.
- Community insight could be clearer and more consistent in informing decision making, alongside the data.
- There is also a consideration for not only listening to communities, but also 'closing the loop' with feedback.

- The team may want to consider how the Children’s Capital of Culture can be utilised to ensure that the voice of the child is heard in informing Public Health plans and activity.
- Not always clear how public health is operating within communities and ensuring the community voice is fully reflected in the JSNA.
- Linked to the above, it is also unclear how communities are supported to understand the JSNA, and the priorities identified for their area, and the processes in place to support this.
- May need to consider how PH intelligence reflects the increasing diversity of the communities in Rotherham and how they can shape the future of the borough.
- JSNA could be more influential in terms of identifying strategic priority outcomes for the future and where to target resources to achieve them.
- Does there need to be wider ownership of the “so what of the JSNA”, and is the new HWB strategy a vehicle for this?

The following four key recommendations were given by the team: -

1. In the health and wellbeing strategy refresh, consider:
 - a. Focus on outcomes.
 - b. Priorities informed by intelligence and engagement.
 - c. Consider population groups as well as geographical areas.
2. The Director of Public Health and the public health team have real credibility. Colleagues and partners would welcome the team going further as positive disrupters and helping to maximise the impact that the cultural, physical and economic regeneration has on the health and wellbeing of the population.
3. Public Health Team to reflect on how it interfaces and influences with both seldom heard communities (including those with protected characteristics), and communities of place, in how it addresses health inequalities. This may include looking for best practice outside the Borough, as well as holding reflective joint workshops with internal and external partners to empower these communities.
4. Look at further opportunities to build capability within the rest of the council to maximise the impact on health and wellbeing outcomes.

The Peer Review Feedback presentation was given to the DPH and a number of the partners who were interviewed on the final day of the review. This group included the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, the Strategic Director Children and Young People’s Services, the Deputy Chief Executive and Rotherham Place Director of NHS South Yorkshire and the Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Rotherham. The slides have also been shared with the Council’s Strategic Leadership Team, the Public Health Team and Health Select Commission.

The Peer Review Feedback will support the continuous improvement of the Public Health function in Rotherham and is feeding into the current work to refresh the Borough’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It will also underpin

the Public Health Service Plan for 2025/26 which will be developed over the next three months.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Health Select Commission note the outcome of the Public Health Peer Review.
- 3.2 Health Select Commission offer any further recommendations for addressing the areas for consideration and recommendations of the Peer Review.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Peer Review consisted of over 20 meetings, with over 75 participants.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 No decision is being taken.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 No finance considerations for this item.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Legal advice not required for this item.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 No staffing implications for this item.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The Peer Review has made recommendations for the Public Health team and the wider Public Health function to give consideration to how we engage with communities of place and those who are sometimes described as 'hard to reach' or 'seldom heard' communities. One of the review recommendations is to look at best practice outside of the organisation and to work with internal and external partners to empower these communities. This focus will include both children and young people and vulnerable adults, and should ensure that there is a stronger voice for them within the JSNA and the work of the Public Health Team.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 An EIA is not required for this report. However, as per 9.1, the Peer Review recommendations to with respect to 'hard to reach' or 'seldom heard' communities will include many of those communities covered by the Equalities Act and to whom the Council has a duty.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 No Climate Implications from this report

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Public Health Peer Review was primarily focused on the RMBC Public Health Team, but due to the nature of the Team's work, and the review framework also covered the work of the wider Health and Wellbeing and Place Partnerships. In taking forward some of the areas for consideration and the recommendations there will be a need for the involvement of partners, particularly those who are members of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 No specific risks or mitigations are raised by this report

Accountable Officer(s)

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