
Borders Director of Public Health Report 2018

Report by the Director of Public Health

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

16 May 2019

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 This report brings the 2018 Borders Director of Public Health Report (Appendix 1) to the attention of the Scottish Borders Council.

1.2 The 2018 Borders Director of Public Health Report provides timely and easily accessible information about health trends that:

- identify key areas on which to focus preventative measures and develop health policies and strategies, and
- increase public and stakeholder understanding of the health of the population and the factors that affect it.

1.3 The aim of the 2018 report is to provide information on the new Scottish Government public health priorities that have now been adopted by NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council as the Scottish Borders Public Health Priorities. These public health priorities are an important milestone and represent agreement between the Scottish Government, the NHS, local government and other key stakeholders about the importance of focusing our efforts to improve the health of the population.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Council notes the Borders Director of Public Health Report 2018.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The purpose of the Director of Public Health Report is to contribute to and monitor the improvement of health and reduction of health inequalities. All directors of public health are expected to produce a report for their local population. They are an important vehicle for informing local people about the health of their community, as well as providing necessary information for decision makers in local health and social services and other stakeholders on health gaps and priorities that need to be addressed.

The rationale is to provide timely and easily accessible information about health trends that:

- identify key areas on which to focus preventative measures and develop health policies and strategies, and
- increase public and stakeholder understanding of the health of the population and the factors that affect it.

3.2 The aim of the 2018 report is to provide information on the new Scottish Government public health priorities that have now been adopted by NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council as the Scottish Borders Public Health Priorities. These public health priorities are an important milestone and represent agreement between the Scottish Government, the NHS, local government and other key stakeholders about the importance of focusing our efforts to improve the health of the population.

3.3 This 2018 report sets out how we will work in partnership within the Borders to achieve change. It is intended to be a foundation for the whole system, for public services, third sector, community organisations and others, to work better together to improve Borders health. It is a starting point for new preventative approaches, and a new awareness around wellbeing, that will develop and strengthen in the coming years. However, to address our public health priorities, we also need individuals, families and communities to play their part, and do all they can to lead more active, healthy lives. Scottish Borders Council has developed a '#yourpart' campaign to support its new Corporate Plan, and partners in the Scottish Borders have endorsed this approach. Suggestions are therefore given throughout this 2018 report on how members of the public can '#yourpart' in improving health in the Borders. Key challenges for the Borders community are also highlighted at the end of each chapter.

3.4 The production of this Report has very much been a team effort and 'distils' the experience and expertise of members of the Borders Public Health Team as well as the public health expertise in other departments of the Council, NHS Borders and other Community Planning Partnership organisations.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

The Report highlights challenges for the Borders community at the end of each chapter. It is up to local planning groups to consider these challenges and address them as they feel appropriate.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

This report supports the Council in discharging its responsibility under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to “advance well-being... to do anything which it considers it is likely to promote or improve the well-being of its area and persons within that area”. It is one mechanism to support the development of effective partnership working to improve health and well-being.

4.3 Equalities

This work should promote equality and encourage a positive approach to diversity. The report is potentially controversial in that it deals with the health impacts of poverty. Its proposals relate to effective targeting of services and resources, linked to needs. It should only advantage the workforce and service users.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

The report highlights the health co-benefits opportunities from delivering sustainable energy and resource use and reductions in environmental vulnerability.

4.5 Carbon Management

There are no immediate effects on carbon emissions.

4.6 Rural Proofing

The report notes particular issues in relation to the health of rural communities and make suggestions as to how these might be addressed.

4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes require to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The following have been consulted on this report - within the Council: the Corporate Management Team and relevant Councillors; within NHS Borders: the Board Executive Team and NHS Borders Health Board. Any comments have been incorporated as appropriate in the final report.

Approved by

Borders Director of Public Health

Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference:

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