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## **Borders Director of Public Health Report 2015**

**Report by Interim Joint Director of Public Health**

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### **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**17 December 2015**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

**1.1 This report brings the 2015 Borders Director of Public Health Report (Appendix 1) to the attention of the Scottish Borders Council.**

1.2 The 2015 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 is to make the information accessible and understandable to as many people as possible and so this Report summarises the key health data at different stages of the life course – starting with local health outcomes for children and moving through adulthood to old age. Specific population topics and health inequalities are also highlighted. It highlights challenges for the Borders community at the end of each chapter and these are also summarised at the beginning of the Report and included in the attached short summary document (Appendix 2) accompanying the main Report.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 I recommend that the Council notes the Borders Director of Public Health Report 2015.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 There have been many changes in the Borders since Dr Baijal, who has now retired as Director of Public Health, produced his report for 2013/4 report 'Working towards Well Being in the Scottish Borders'. This drew together the consultation responses to his 2011-2012 report "Fact or Fantasy? Your Health 2020" and produced an action plan based on responses received. Many of these actions are currently being taken forward by NHS Borders and the Scottish Borders Council in partnership with local communities through the Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The establishment of a new Health and Social Care Integrated Joint Board (IJB) for the strategic planning of health and social care community services is also a significant step in improving the health of the population of the Borders.
- 3.2 Traditionally, the Director of Public Health's Annual Report covered a lot of information that is now covered in the CPP and IJB strategic plans and the NHS Borders Clinical Strategy. This Report presents information on the health and wellbeing of the people of the Borders in a different way. 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.
- 3.3 The aim is to make the information accessible and understandable to as many people as possible and so this report summarises the key health data at different stages of the life course – starting with local health outcomes for children and moving through adulthood to old age. Specific population topics and health inequalities are also highlighted. It highlights challenges for the Borders community at the end of each chapter and these are also summarised at the beginning of the Report and included in the attached short summary document accompanying the main Report.
- 3.5 The production of this Report has very much been a team effort and 'distils' the experience and expertise of all members of the very talented, often "virtual", Public Health Team both within Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders.

### **4 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial**

The Report highlights challenges for the Borders community at the end of each chapter and these are also summarised at the beginning of the Report. 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 and the relationship to the Welfare Benefits Reform. 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**

**Interim Joint Director of Public Health**

**Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

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**Background Papers:**

**Previous Minute Reference:**

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Legal and Democratic Shared

Services can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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