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To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

From: Liz Gaulton, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, Coventry City Council

Title: Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020-2021

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## 1 Purpose

This paper presents the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020-2021, 'Connecting through COVID-19 – Making a difference by working together in unprecedented times'.

## 2 Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to

- Note the report's findings;
- Endorse the recommendations from the 2020-2021 DPH report; and
- Note the progress on recommendations from the 2020-2021 DPH report.

## 3 Information / Background

This year's report focuses on the value of relationships and connecting with people and communities. It offers a reflection on the city's approach to engagement and working with communities through the pandemic and demonstrates how this has shaped our COVID-19 response, recovery and ongoing defence. This report brings together data that shows the impact of COVID-19 on the City and provides an overview of the Council's strategy on communications and engagement. It demonstrates how our services and response was guided by community-led activity. The report's findings are informed by statistical figures, performance reports and evaluations from the Council and partners.

The report offers recommendations for improvement and future practice. Learning the lessons from our experience gained during the COVID-19 pandemic to benefit the way we work in the future.

## 4 Recommendations

<b>Recommendation 1</b>	Harness the work of the Community Messengers approach established during our COVID-19 response, as an ongoing method of working with communities and a central component of engagement for public health and wider programmes.
<b>Recommendation 2</b>	Build on the engagement structures created and strengthened during the pandemic such as the Places of Worship and Community Centre Network, and grass-roots community organisations who were funded to support

	COVID-19 response efforts. Further understand the reach of these community organisations and networks to enable the targeting of work in areas with limited availability of community resource.
<b>Recommendation 3</b>	Strengthen the existing relationships with GPs, other health professionals and those working with populations at higher risk of a range of poorer health outcomes due to inequality, deprivation, ethnicity and underlying health conditions – building upon the work started through the Vaccinating Coventry Programme.
<b>Recommendation 4</b>	Embed our partnership approach to maintaining local COVID-19 defence, led by Coventry City Council's Public Health working collaboratively with UK Health Security Agency and in partnership with the wider Council and 'One Coventry' partners. Embed our partnership approach to maintaining local COVID-19 defence, led by Coventry City Council's Public Health working collaboratively with UK Health Security Agency and in partnership with the wider Council and 'One Coventry' partners.
<b>Recommendation 5</b>	Establish strong COVID-19 recovery workstreams with 'One Coventry' partners and communities to embed a robust and coherent recovery for the City, with the aim of building a better future for all.

## 5 Progress on 2019-2020 recommendations

No	Recommendation	Action to date
1	Wider determinants of health COVID-19 has shone a light on inequalities within our communities. Coventry City Council and partners should continue to build on this increased awareness, and consider the findings from COVID-19-related research and surveys, to mitigate the health and wellbeing impact of inequalities in Coventry	<p>The Coventry and Warwickshire Covid impact assessment identified a national exacerbation of health inequalities, with people in more deprived communities, in lower-paid employment, or with pre-existing health conditions, more likely to experience further deprivation as a result of lockdown. Investment this year in lifestyles support through the NHS Long Term Plan and Health Equality Partnership programmes is seeking to develop models to address these inequalities.</p> <p>The Coventry &amp; Warwickshire Mental Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment also showed evidence of increased need and demand because of the pandemic, with residents and stakeholders reporting challenges in accessing the right support. The mental health transformation programme over the next 3 years will develop the core offer and a model of delivery that better responds to where people live and the services around them</p>
2	Our health, behaviours, and lifestyles Coventry City Council's approach to public health communications and engagement should be guided by lessons learnt and new relationships formed, especially as we continue to live with, and through, COVID-19.	The Coventry Health Challenge, September 2020 - March 2021 was designed and delivered to respond to the pandemic and the Government's 'Better Health' campaign. The evidenced wide reach of the campaign, and the positive feedback received from the key stakeholder groups, indicates that the campaign made a difference in supporting the population of Coventry to protect their health and wellbeing during the Covid-19 pandemic. All the community groups involved were keen to continue receiving health promotion materials to share with their members.
3	Our health, behaviours, and lifestyles Coventry City Council and partners should continue to encourage local employers, and	The West Midlands THRIVE at work award framework seeks to improve wellbeing awareness, access to relevant health services, and to improve the support provided to employees by each participating company. Of the 21 companies receiving the Thrive

	lifestyle and wellbeing services, to commit to improving workplace wellbeing	award in 2020, 10 were from Coventry & Warwickshire. The Call to Action builds on THRIVE at work and is a specific Coventry, system-wide challenge to all businesses and organisations to take one or two actions which will help to tackle health inequalities. The initial focus has been on the private sector to raise awareness with employers about the implications of health inequalities and suggest actions that they can take which will benefit the business as well as the wider community. Actions include - paying the real living wage, taking a social value approach in their business, ensuring they have fair working practices which don't present barriers to certain groups, upskilling staff, and undertaking community initiatives.
4	Integration of actions from the community, public sector, and voluntary sector Building on existing health and wellbeing infrastructure, a collaborative partnership approach, which brings together residents' experience and partners' skills and assets, should be taken to strengthen health and wellbeing in communities.	An example of the way in which citizens and local services were brought together during the summer of 2021 was the 'On your doorstep' event in Foleshill. The evaluation and outcome of this event has been to seek to replicate street and place-based contact with local residents to reduce loneliness and social isolation and increase access to family hubs and other support services. The model underpins the Coventry City Council bid to the Active Communities fund as part of the Commonwealth Games legacy funding.
5	The places and communities we live in and with Coventry City Council and partners should set up spaces and channels to meet with residents, with the aim of inspiring them to imagine the change they wish to see in their communities, and enabling residents to lead the change.	The Integrated Services project in Bell Green and Wood End was set up in December 2020 to respond to the social needs, challenges, and opportunity potential of the area, as well as existing community assets and the value placed on these by residents.  The single locality prototype project is key initiative within the Partnerships and Community programme. The project's success will depend on the Council, its partners, the community, and residents working together to fully understand and deliver on priority needs. Testing commenced in May 2021

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

**Appendices**

Coventry Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020-2021