
To: Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5)

Date: 18 October 2023

Subject: Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2023

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory responsibility to write an independent annual report, and the Local Authority a statutory duty to publish it. The DPH for Coventry has chosen to focus their 1st annual report on the sexual health and wellbeing of young people. The report can be found at Appendix 1.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) are recommended to:
- 1) To note the findings and recommendations of the Annual Report Public Health 2023 for Coventry
 - 2) Endorse the recommendations contained in the report.

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 Protecting our right to achieve good sexual health and fulfilling relationships is highlighted by the World Health Organization as key part of creating safe, respectful communities/society. Working as partners, we can and should support children and young people in Coventry to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes that will provide them with best opportunity to achieve these rights.
- 3.2 The report illustrates new and longstanding protective and risk factors that influence young people's ability to build healthy relationships and their confidence in accessing help when needed. The report recognises that societal and technological changes have been rapid, with positive and negative impacts on children and young people in Coventry. It highlights that change is not new, and that by working collaboratively as an integrated system, we have the potential to secure these rights and better outcomes for every Coventry child, young person and community.
- 3.3 The report has been informed by the needs of young people in Coventry. The issues and action taken are described in chapters:
1. Introduction – What do we mean by sexual health and relationships? why is this important?
 2. Positive Foundations.

3. Relationships – Influences on behaviours and choices.
4. Reproductive health.
5. Gender and sexuality.
6. Healthy and unhealthy relationships– Recognising the signs.
7. Young people, sexual violence and exploitation.
8. Recommendations.
9. Where young people can find support in Coventry.

4 Health Inequalities Impact

- 4.1 This report details health inequalities that affect our children and young people. It can be used as a resource when designing services for this population and contains a small number of recommendations for the local public health system.

Appendix 1: Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023

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