

# Public Health Priorities 2022/23;

Forward planning for local implementation of national public health policy

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# Today's presentation will cover....

- 1) Where are we now? 'COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19'
- 2) Recently published and emerging national public health policy
- 3) Health inequalities and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
- 4) Identifying priorities for Health and Wellbeing Board Workplan (2022/23)

# Where are we now?

*"The Government's objective in the next phase of the COVID-19 response is to enable the country to manage COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses, while minimising mortality and retaining the ability to respond if a new variant emerges with more dangerous properties than the Omicron variant, or during periods of waning immunity, that could again threaten to place the NHS under unsustainable pressure."*

## Key Messages

- **The pandemic is not yet over;** considerable uncertainty about the path the pandemic will take in the UK (SAGE)
- **The Government will maintain contingency capabilities and resilience** to deal with range of possible scenarios

 HM Government

## COVID-19 RESPONSE: LIVING WITH COVID-19

February 2022

# Recently published and emerging Public Health policy



- **Levelling up the United Kingdom White Paper** (*published 2 February 2022*): outlines how the Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK
- **Tackling health disparities: two independent reviews announced** (*4 February 2022*): Ethnic inequalities for medical devices review (lead: Prof. Dame Margaret Whitehead), and Tobacco control review (lead: Javed Khan OBE)
- **Health Disparities White Paper** (*to be published Spring 2022*): aiming to reduce existing inequalities. *Results of two independent reviews (above) will feed into Government's wider plans to level up the country and through this White Paper*
- **Tobacco Control Plan** (*to be published later in 2022*)
- **From harm to hope; A 10 year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives** (*published 6 December 2021*)

# Health inequalities and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for England emphasised three key areas of focus at the \*LGA/ADPH Annual Public Health Conference (March 2022), emerging health issues:

- Obesity
- Alcohol
- Smoking

Also highlighted: screening coverage (breast screening and cervical screening), air pollution, physical activity

*Reference:*

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Professor%20Chris%20Whitty%2C%20Chief%20Medical%20Officer%20for%20England.pdf>

\*Local Government Association (LGA)/Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH)

# Key Messages: CMO for England (March 22)

## Smoking



Progress on **smoking prevalence** is stalling.



Deaths due to **respiratory disease** under the age of 75 years and **lung cancer** deaths are **higher in deprived areas**.

## Alcohol

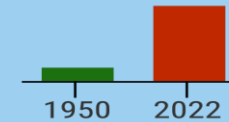


The **alcohol-specific death rate** in 2020 was **18.6% higher** than the previous year.



Those with **higher incomes** are **more likely to drink** - but those in **deprived areas** experience **higher deaths** due to liver disease under the age of 75 years.

## Obesity



Obesity prevalence is **5x higher** than it was in 1950.



The prevalence of **obesity in children** is **getting worse**. Children living in the most deprived areas are disproportionately affected by obesity.



**Children living in more deprived areas** are **more likely to be obese** than those in less deprived areas. Most recent data points from the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) are based on a sample but show a marked 'up tick'.



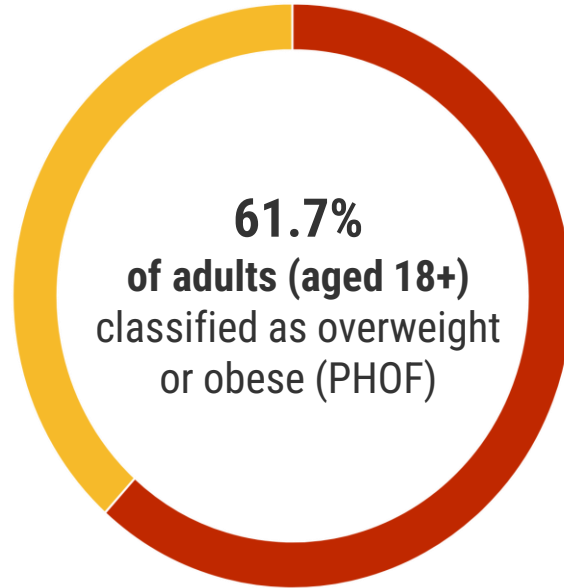
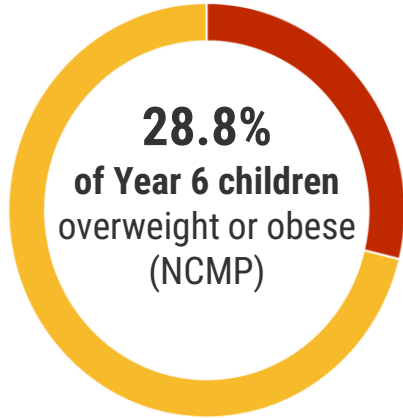
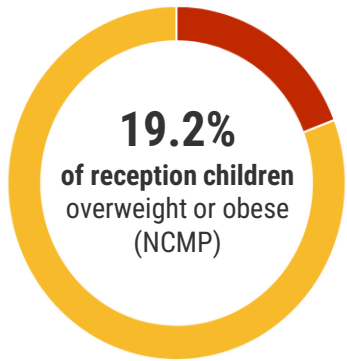
People living with obesity or overweight are at **increased risk of severe COVID-19**.

# What is the situation in West Sussex? What are the key issues/challenges?

- Over **863,000 residents** in the county
- **Population change** has been driven by inward migration – only Crawley is seeing more births than deaths
- **County of considerable inequality** – the impact of COVID-19 (directly and indirectly) also reflects inequality, causing a large increase in unemployment in the county and some areas, notably Crawley, has been disproportionately impacted
- **Poverty increasing;** over 25,000 children in West Sussex live in low-income households
- **Childhood obesity** has got worse over last few years
- We understand the bigger picture, and the long term major causes and risks for death and illness in West Sussex. Challenges highlight on **tobacco, diet, physical activity, substance misuse and mental health**

# Obesity/Healthy Weight

2019/20 data for West Sussex shows:



**Year 6 Data 2020/21 (NCMP) West Sussex**  
**Over a third of Year 6 children are**  
**overweight or obese (35.7%); an increase**  
**of 6.9% in a year**

- **2.3% increase** in number of children in Year 6 **overweight** (excluding obesity) to **15.4%** (SE: 15.0% and England: 15.4%)
- **4.6% increase** in percentage of children who were obese (including severely obese); **20.3% of children in Year 6 are now obese** (SE: 20.9% and England: 25.5%)



# Tobacco Control

- Smoking rates have gradually fallen over recent years however we estimate that approximately 70,000 West Sussex people still smoke
- Prevalence amongst adults in West Sussex is currently 11.2%
- 19.7% of Routine and Manual workers in the county smoke
- 39% of those engaged in stop smoking services across all providers in West Sussex are Routine and Manual workers
- 51% quit rate within Routine and Manual workers group

# Alcohol

- **Increase in harmful levels of alcohol consumption contribute to a range of long-term health risks** including cancer, obesity, stroke, pancreatitis, high blood pressure, depression, dementia, and more.
- **Other risks** include accidents and injury, violence and antisocial behaviour, unsafe sex, unplanned time off work or college, and loss of personal possessions.
- In West Sussex in 2020/21, **hospital admissions** for alcoholic liver disease showed a significant increase compared to 2019/20, with 410 people admitted to hospital (compared to 265 in 2019/20). This is the **highest rate recorded in the past decade**. Particularly marked in **females**.
- In 2020, the under 75 mortality rate for alcoholic liver disease in West Sussex increased significantly (11.2 per 100,000 population) compared to 2019 (7.0 per 100,000 population).
- Evidence of **more people seeking support** from services e.g. a 21% increase in referrals to the DrinkCoach online one-to-one service during 2020/21 compared to the previous year.

## References:

OHID Fingertips: Liver Disease Profiles 2020/21. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/liver-disease/data#page/1>

NHS Choices. Risks: Alcohol Misuse: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/alcohol-misuse/>

# Identifying priorities for HWB Workplan (2022/23)

- **HWB Role:** Board leads and plans how to best meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and tackle health inequalities (HI)
- National public health priorities are to be implemented at local level
- Need to ensure we understand local health inequalities and target work to reduce gap in HI between most and least affluent across the county.

# Areas of focus for HWB

- Tackling the impacts of COVID-19 over the last 2 years (population needs have changed)
- Alcohol, obesity, tobacco, mental health have worsened
- Continuation of Health Protection response across West Sussex

# What action(s) can the Board take?

- **Joint approach** to tackling health inequalities (HI) and improving the health of our population, working collectively as a Board to **lead and influence** the local health and care system.
- Our strength lies in our position as systems leaders, and our ability to **champion the actions of our own and partner's organisations.**
- **Debate and define** possible actions and solutions that we can take back into our own organisations
- **Identify actions** that target delivery of priorities

# Recommendations to the Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- 1) Provide feedback** on recently published and emerging national public health policy documents and key messages from the CMO for England regarding health inequalities and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, discussing any **key issues/challenges for West Sussex**.
- 2) Forward plan** for national public health policy implementation locally in West Sussex, **commencing identifying priorities** for the Board's workplan for 2022/23.