
Report to West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board

03 November 2022

West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024 – proposed cost of living pressures addendum

Report by Dani Plowman, Public Health Specialty Registrar, West Sussex County Council

Summary

Following the Director of Public Health's update to the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2022 on the Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024 (JHWS), the Public Health Specialty Registrar will deliver a presentation to the Board on cost of living pressures, and potential impacts on our local population's health. They will outline a proposed strategic approach and principles to tackle this countywide with a recommendation to the Board for inclusion as an addendum in the JHWS. The Assistant Director (Communities) will also provide a verbal update to the Board on the whole Council approach to addressing cost of living pressures across the county, and current work being developed and implemented to support our residents and communities.

Whilst this report specifically focuses on the proposed cost of living pressures addendum to the JHWS, it is important to highlight, that in addition to this, the JHWS will be reviewed in light of current national policy to ensure it continues to meet the health and wellbeing needs of our residents and communities.

Recommendation(s) to the Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to;

- (1) Acknowledge the potential impacts of cost of living pressures on our local population's health and wellbeing.
- (2) Provide feedback on the proposed strategic approach and principles to tackle cost of living pressures in West Sussex as outlined in the Public Health Specialty Registrar's presentation.
- (3) Approve the Public Health Specialty Registrar to progress inclusion of the proposed cost of living addendum in the West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024 (JHWS).

Relevance to [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)

In line with the vision of the West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024, to ensure West Sussex "...is a place where improved health and wellbeing is experienced by all our residents, and the health and wellbeing gap between communities is reducing", this item will consider how cost of living pressures may

impact the local population's health and widen health inequalities. By working collaboratively as a Board, key systems leaders across West Sussex, will work together to mitigate potential adverse impacts of the cost of living pressures on our local population.

1 Background and context

- 1.1 In July 2022, the Director of Public Health provided an update to the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on the Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024 (JHWS), including the impact of COVID-19 and health inequalities, the role of the HWB, and the development and implementation of the Integrated Care System (ICS) for Sussex and how it will interface with HWBs to identify priorities for each place within the ICS. In discussion, Board members highlighted that the JHWS required an update with respect to emerging cost of living pressures.
- 1.2 The cost of living pressures can be defined as the fall in 'real' disposable income (primarily earnings, pensions and benefit entitlements) that the UK has experienced since late 2021. Predominantly it is being caused by high inflation outstripping wage and benefit increases [1].
- 1.3 Office for National Statistics and the New Economics Foundation analysis indicates that the increasing cost of living is already disproportionately impacting some population groups, including people who are disabled, those living in the most deprived areas, older people, ethnic minority groups and low income families with children [2], [3].
- 1.4 Whilst West Sussex is relatively affluent, Adur, Worthing, Crawley and Arun have neighbourhoods in the 30% most deprived in England, with Arun and parts of Crawley having some neighbourhoods in the 10% most deprived in England. West Sussex also has a much older population than average. These groups are likely to be disproportionately impacted by the increasing cost of living.
- 1.5 There are a wide range of potential health and wellbeing impacts associated with insufficient income [4]. These include a reduction in the proportion of people maintaining a healthy weight, increased risk of circulatory and respiratory illness, increased risk of falls in older or more frail people, and poorer mental health, including increased risk of anxiety, stress, depression and suicidal behaviours [5], [6], [7], [8].
- 1.6 While the UK Government is addressing the rising cost of living through fiscal and other measures, there are actions which the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board and other local organisations can take by working collaboratively to address some of the potential negative impacts on the local population's health.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the topic, focus and recommendations to the Board of the Public Health Specialty Registrar's presentation that they will deliver on 3 November 2022.
- 2.2 Views are sought from the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board in line with the Recommendations of this report.

3 Consultation, engagement and advice

3.1 Not applicable

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Appendices Presentation Papers

None

Background papers :

- [1] [Institute for Government, "What is the cost of living crisis?,"](#) The Institute for Government, 2022.
- [2] [New Economics Foundation, "Losing the inflation race,"](#) May 2022. [Accessed 14 October 2022].
- [3] [Office for National Statistics, "Impact of increased cost of living on adults across Great Britain,"](#) August 2022.
- [4] [Joseph Rowntree Foundation, "How does money influence health?,"](#) 2014.
- [5] [Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, Cost of Living.](#)
- [6] [Institute of Health Equity, "Fuel poverty, cold homes and health inequalities in the UK,"](#) 2022. [Online]. Available: <https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fuel-poverty-cold-homes-and-health-inequalities-in-the-uk/read-the-report.pdf>. [Accessed 29 September 2022].
- [7] [The Health Foundation, "How does work affect our health,"](#) [Online]. Available: <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/charts-and-infographics/unemployment>. [Accessed 29 September 2022].
- [8] [Shankar, P.; Chung, R.; Frank, D.A., "Association of Food Insecurity with Children's Behavioral, Emotional, and Academic Outcomes: A Systematic Review,"](#) *Journal of developmental and behavioural paediatrics*, 2017.