

Public Health and Wellbeing Portfolio - Summary

Performance Summary

1. Performance highlights this quarter:

- Following the publication of the Government's public health policy paper, ['Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation'](#), they launched an [eight-week, UK-wide consultation](#) (which closed on 6th December 2023) on proposals to make it an offence for anyone born on or after 1st January 2009 to be sold tobacco products and to tackle youth vaping. MPs will also get a free vote in Parliament on proposals. Vaping can be an effective tool to help existing adult smokers to quit tobacco. However, vapes are not risk free; the message is simple – 'if you don't smoke, don't vape'. West Sussex County Council Public Health officers coordinated the consultation response on behalf of the Council, engaging with a range of Directorates across the Council during this process. The County Council's response included supporting the proposal that the age of sale for tobacco products should be changed so that anyone born on or after 1st January 2009 will never be legally sold tobacco products, and proposals to introduce a raft of evidence-based measures to reduce youth vaping, whilst supporting adult smokers to quit tobacco using whichever means is most appropriate for them, including through the use of vapes. A briefing note from the Director of Public Health to all County Councillors on the Council's response was provided on 15th December 2023.
- Building on communications messages over the last year, the Council's Public Health and Communications teams have continued to develop the **County Council's all-age mental health communications campaign** which will run until March 2024 aiming to raise community awareness of mental health, signpost to sources of information and support, and to challenge the persistent stigma of mental illness. As part of this approach, a dedicated campaign page ['Your mental health – West Sussex'](#) on the Council's website has been developed to enable residents to find the information they need to help their emotional wellbeing and mental health. Additionally, there will be regular social media messaging and residents' e-newsletter articles, ongoing promotion of [Your Mind Matters](#), ['Don't brush it under the carpet'](#), the ['Warning Signs'](#) initiative, and more. An ongoing evaluation approach, including analytics and feedback from support services, will guide and inform future communications.

Our Council Performance Measures

2. The following section provides KPI updates comparing performance over the last three periods (each measure will explain the reporting period).

Public Health and Wellbeing		2023/24 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Year End Forecast
6	Measure: Healthy weight of 10–11-year-olds Reporting Frequency: Annually (November)	Top Quartile in South East (%TBC)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	↑	G
	G		G	G			
			69.8%	63.2%	65.7% (Target for 2021/22: 63%)		
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: Healthy weight of children is measured through the annual National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), which is delivering well in West Sussex with high compliance. Data is reported annually, with data for the period 2022/23 being available later this year as part of national reporting. Whilst the measure is reporting a RAG status of green, it is important to note that the data shows only two thirds of 10- to 11-year-olds in West Sussex are of a healthy weight, indicating there is a need to support a third of this population group to achieve a healthy weight. Obesity is a complex issue affecting all ages, which emphasises the importance of a family targeted approach, working across all age groups.							
Actions: The County Council's Public Health commissioned (mandated) service – the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) – will deliver the NCMP for 2023/24. National letter templates have been sent to schools in preparation for 2023/24 delivery and are awaiting further national guidance and recording templates. Public Health will be implementing a programme of work to support children to achieve a healthy weight.							
31	Measure: Healthy life expectancy (HLE) for men Reporting Frequency: 3 Year Rolling Average (May)	67.0 Years	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	↓	A
			G	A			
			64.6 Years	66.0 Years (Target for 2018/19 = 66 Years)	63.8 Years (Target for 2019/20 = 66 Years)		
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) measures the years that a person can expect to live in good health. HLE data is published annually; the latest data published in 2019/20 by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on HLE relates to 2018-2020. This was due to be updated this year, for the period 2019-2021, however, this is now expected next year, to include new Census 2021 data on general health and requires rebased population estimates, publication of which has also been delayed. The latest data shows a downward trend with HLE for men reducing by 2.2 years from data published in 2018/19.							
Actions: There is no single action to improve HLE, but evidence shows the greatest impact will be achieved through addressing smoking, diet and alcohol measures along with evidence-based healthcare interventions, such as identifying and treating people with high blood pressure. Public Health is implementing its approach to evidence-based prevention activities across the county with district and borough councils as part of the West Sussex Wellbeing Programme, and with our health and care partners.							
32	Measure: Healthy life expectancy (HLE) for women Reporting Frequency: 3 Year Rolling Average	67.0 Years	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	↓	A
			G	A			
			64.3 Years	64.8 Years (Target for 2018/19 = 64.8 Years)	63.9 Years (Target for 2019/20 = 64.8 Years)		
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) measures the years that a person can expect to live in good health. HLE data is published annually; the latest data published in 2019/20 by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on HLE relates to 2018-2020. This was due to be updated this year, for the period 2019-2021, however, this is now expected next year, to include new Census 2021 data on general health and requires rebased population estimates, publication of which has also been delayed. The latest data shows a downward trend with HLE for women reducing by 1.1 years from data published in 2018/19.							
Actions: There is no single action to improve HLE, but evidence shows the greatest impact will be achieved through addressing smoking, diet and alcohol measures along with evidence-based healthcare interventions, such as identifying and treating people with high blood pressure. Public Health is implementing its approach to evidence-based prevention activities across the county with district and borough councils as part of the West Sussex Wellbeing Programme, and with our health and care partners.							

Public Health and Wellbeing		2023/24 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Year End Forecast
35	Measure: Number of people completing evidence-based falls prevention programmes Reporting Frequency: Annually (June)	500		2021/22	2022/23	↗	A
	New Measure - No Data		A	G			
			354	425 (Target for 2022/23 = 400)			
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: This data relates to falls prevention programmes within the West Sussex Wellbeing Programme – a partnership with district and borough councils across West Sussex. It shows a good increase in the number of people completing the programmes from the previous year (2021/22). These are one of a number of services with a falls prevention remit across the county, including NHS services which also deliver falls prevention programmes. The number of people completing falls prevention programmes overall in the county is therefore likely to be higher than the West Sussex Wellbeing data reported here. West Sussex Public Health are currently exploring relevant data within the local falls prevention pathway including with partners, with a view where possible, to including this activity in future reporting.							
Actions: West Sussex Public Health will continue to work closely with partners to deliver and improve this approach, including planning for winter pressures.							
53	Measure: Mental health – self-reported wellbeing – people with a high anxiety score Reporting Frequency: Annually	21%	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	↘	A
	20.9%		22.4%	23.9%			
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: Data for the last three periods shows an upward trend, with data for 2021/22 (23.9%) above the England national average (22.6%) and South East average (22.3%). The data source for this measure is the Annual Population Survey (APS) (persons aged 16+ years) from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and an update for 2022/23 is currently awaited. It is important to note, that the indicator is an estimate based on a sample of the population in the area. It is recognised that anxiety is not the only indicator of mental health but appropriate to use due to being a key issue and collected on a national level so enables benchmarking at national, regional, and local authority level.							
Actions: This is a priority area for the County Council and partners and is a recently added measure to Our Council Plan because of the assessed level of need in the population. The team are reviewing the latest data through a needs assessment, to inform the County Council's work and public health interventions to improve this measure, including public mental health programmes, suicide prevention, and improving the skills and knowledge of people working in educational settings, parents, families, and carers, to prevent and respond to children and young people who are self-harming. Furthermore, a toolkit for supporting West Sussex schools, academies and colleges respond to an unexpected death of a pupil or member of staff, has been developed by the County Council together with school leaders and partners. To support the launch of this package of guidance, the County Council has also commissioned training, which can be accessed by these educational settings for free.							
54	Measure: HIV late diagnosis in people first diagnosed with HIV in the UK Reporting Frequency: Annually	25% -50%	2018-20	2019-21	2020-22	↗	A
	54.5%		56.9%	51.0%			
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: The data source for this measure is the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), with data reported on the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF). Data for the last three data periods as reported on the PHOF are included in this performance update. Data reported in 2020 and 2021 is impacted by the reconfiguration of sexual health services during the national response to Covid-19. Whilst the data for the reporting period 2020-22 (51.0%) shows a downward trend from 2019-21 (56.9%), this is above the Council's 2023/24 target (25-50%) and significantly above the England national average for 2020-22 (43.3%).							
Actions: West Sussex Public Health continues to progress the West Sussex HIV Action Plan agreed with key stakeholders earlier this year. As part of an evidence-based approach to identifying population need, attitudinal research into HIV testing and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake has commenced, as well as implementing evidence-based initiatives where required, including community engagement and outreach projects.							

Public Health and Wellbeing		2023/24 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Year End Forecast
55	Measure: Chlamydia – proportion of 15 – 24-year-olds screened. Reporting Frequency: Annually	12%	2020	2021	2022	↗	R
			6.8%	5.8%	7.8%		
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: Chlamydia detection rates in the public health commissioned Integrated Sexual Health Service (ISHS) were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic with reduced numbers of people accessing services, dropping significantly from 2019 (15.2%) to 2020 (6.8%), however, they are recovering. Diagnosis targets were set in 2018 as part of a five-year action plan and in 2022/23 these were met. However, chlamydia screening remains low outside of sexual health services, and while the proportion of 15 – 24-year-olds screened rose to 7.8% in 2022 from 5.8% in 2021, this is still the lowest in the South East. In contrast with the Council’s best performing local authority neighbours, West Sussex has a comparatively low uptake of chlamydia self-testing accessed online. An action plan has been developed with providers and stakeholders, with particular emphasis on increasing uptake of online testing.							
Actions: This is a priority for the Public Health team to explore potential reasons for reduced chlamydia detection rates in the county, focusing on system wide improvements to increase testing opportunities and awareness. Engagement with partners has commenced to explore opportunities for further locations to access screening in the county.							
60	Measure: Smoking cessation (4 week quits) of smokers from disadvantaged groups. Reporting Frequency: Quarterly, Reported a quarter in arrears	600	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sept-23	↗	A
			579	R 122	R 248		
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: Work continues to recover WSCC smoking cessation services to pre-pandemic activity levels. The data is cumulative and shows smoking quits achieved in Q1 and Q2. However, some quits from this period will not be reported until Q3 due to data collection processes and so will be incorporated in the end of year total.							
This performance indicator includes all reported quits from West Sussex Public Health commissioned smoking cessation services, which are targeted at the following groups, as per National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance and because these providers can actively engage these groups: <i>West Sussex Wellbeing Service</i> - working with people in the 20% most deprived areas of each district and borough in West Sussex, English as a second language, carers, young people leaving care, individuals with learning difficulties, clients with autism, individuals with serious mental illness (SMI). <i>Primary Care (GPs and pharmacies)</i> - smokers with one or more of the following Long-Term Conditions: cardiovascular disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), asthma, diabetes type 1 and 2, cancer.							
Actions: Provider activity and outcomes have been reviewed and identified actions will be implemented in Q4. Local promotion of Stoptober, the national stop smoking campaign, focussed on the importance of seeking support from local Stop Smoking Services to improve chances of successfully quitting. In addition to promotion by West Sussex County Council Public Health and Communications teams, the campaign was promoted by West Sussex Trading Standards and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, and by local providers of stop smoking services: West Sussex Wellbeing, GPs, and Pharmacies. Early findings indicate a 10% increase in engagement with smoking cessation services during the six-week campaign. The Stoptober evaluation will be completed in Q4. An additional government grant for local authority led stop smoking services is expected from 1 April 2024 (allocation is part of government’s announcement to create a ‘smokefree generation’) and review of service model and offer to West Sussex residents to ensure support is in place to meet identified population need.							
61	Measure: Smoking prevalence in adults (18+) – current smokers (APS) - to achieve Smokefree 2030 prevalence of 5% or below. Reporting Frequency: Annually	10.9%		2021/22	2022/23	↘	R
			New Measure – No Data	12.4%	R 12.5%		
Performance Analysis: Dec-23: Smoking prevalence is measured by the Annual Population Survey, which is reported annually and published in arrears. Consequently, the impact of current tobacco control activity undertaken in 2023/24 will be measurable in 2025/26, as the survey will be undertaken in 2024, with results published in 2025. Prevalence data for 2022 was published in August 2023 and has increased by 0.1% (to 12.5%) from 2021 prevalence of 12.4%. The decreasing trend in smoking prevalence in West Sussex over previous years appears to now be levelling off, indicating a need to continue to prioritise this work. Data collection methodology has changed, therefore data prior to 2021/22 is not comparable.							

Public Health and Wellbeing	2023/24 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods	DoT	Year End Forecast
<p>Actions: Work to implement the West Sussex Tobacco Control Strategy Action Plan, driven by the West Sussex Smokefree Partnership, is progressing, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disrupting the illicit/underage sale/supply of illicit tobacco and vaping products. Rolling out the provision of reusable vapes as an additional tool to assist adults to quit smoking, with support from West Sussex smoking cessation services. Developing and implementing a cross-directorate approach to addressing vaping amongst children and young people, working closely with educational settings. Establishing expedited pathways for housebound smokers, identified by West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. 				

Finance Summary

Portfolio In Year Pressures and Mitigations

Pressures	(£m)	Mitigations and Underspending	(£m)	Year end budget variation (£m)
Public Health and Wellbeing Portfolio - Total	£0.000m		(£0.000m)	£0.000m

Financial Narrative on the Portfolio's Position

- As at December, the forecast against the Public Health and Wellbeing Portfolio continues to be a balanced budget.
- A wide range of public health functions, responsibilities and services impact on wider Council areas, with Public Health working collaboratively across the authority contributing to improving the impacts and outcomes of the Council Plan priorities.
- The level of population need has increased in a number of areas, and the County Council has seen changes in the way residents prefer to use some services differently. Spending plans are being prepared to utilise the unallocated £1.5m from the 2023/24 budget to reflect the increased level of need in the population for mandated public health services and to support the delivery of the Council's countywide priorities whilst also meeting and improving public health outcomes.
- The Public Health Grant balance stands at £5.9m as a result of underspending in previous years due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in demand-led areas like NHS Health Checks and sexual health services, which saw lower than usual volumes during earlier phases of the pandemic. Plans to utilise this funding on public health needs and outcomes are being considered as part of the budget preparation process for 2024/25.

7. In accordance with ring-fenced grant requirements, any unspent funds will be carried forward into the next financial year, so it remains available to manage risk and spend in line with the Public Health Grant conditions.
8. An indicative budget for 2024/25 for the Public Health Grant has been announced which increases the 2023/24 grant by 1.3%. It is noted this is significantly below the level of inflation and spending plans will need to take this into account and other responsibilities for example, NHS contracts and national salary uplift requirements.
9. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government allocated **Contain (Covid) Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)** to help reduce the spread of the virus and to support local public health needs. The County Council carried forward £1.874m of funding into 2023/24. Eligible expenditure relating to agreed COMF projects, including public health action and intervention measures, will be allocated to this grant.

Savings Delivery Update

10. The portfolio has no named savings target for 2023/24, however there is a direct link to the £0.038m Support Services and Economic Development saving – Use of Uncommitted Public Health Grant (PHG). This saving has occurred due to the Help and Home contract being decommissioned and has enabled other eligible spend within the Support Services and Economic Development portfolio to be funded through the Public Health Grant.

Capital Programme

11. Currently, there are no Public Health and Wellbeing capital schemes within the County Council's Capital Programme.

Risk

12. There are no corporate risks assigned to this portfolio. Risks allocated to other portfolios are specified within the respective portfolio sections. Further detail on all risks can be found in **Appendix 5** - Corporate Risk Register Summary.
13. Full details of the latest Risk Register, including actions and mitigations can be found under the County Council's [Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee Agenda](#) website.