

Public Health and Wellbeing Portfolio - Summary

Performance Summary

1. Performance highlights this quarter include:

- The Council's Public Health Team supported the autumn [NHS COVID-19 Booster Programme and the Flu Vaccination Programme](#), led by NHS England, by carrying out targeted work with partners to increase vaccine uptake, reduce inequalities, and improve the health of our local population. This included communications in the Council's residents' e-newsletter, social media posts and libraries, and offering a free flu vaccination voucher to staff and elected Members who are not eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination. For the first time, the NHS is also offering vaccines for [respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\)](#), a common cause of coughs and colds which can be dangerous to older people and young children.
- **Planning for the West Sussex Sexual Health Needs Assessment (SHNA) has taken place**, to gain an updated understanding of the sexual health needs of the county's population and to identify how well these needs are currently being met, including through the provision of local sexual health services. This work will include focused engagement with residents, communities and professionals, and forms part of the West Sussex Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), the evidence base that informs decisions on health and wellbeing in West Sussex. It will also inform actions to improve performance against the Council Plan indicator: Chlamydia - the proportion of females aged 15 – 24 screened.
- The Public Health Team have **expanded [Smokefree West Sussex services to increase the amount of free support available](#)** to help smokers to quit and provide more choice in how they choose to quit. Funded by a Government grant, and launched in Q3, the services now include; a new specialist stop smoking service 'Quit4Wellbeing', offering face-to-face and over-the-phone support; a new [Smokefree app](#), available to support West Sussex residents over the age of 18 to quit smoking; and a new 'Smokefree West Sussex' phone line for help in accessing stop smoking services. The extra services are significantly increasing capacity to support people to quit smoking, in addition to the support already available from the West Sussex Wellbeing Programme, participating GP surgeries, and pharmacies.

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		2024/25 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Year End Forecast
6	Measure: Healthy weight of 10–11-year-olds. Reporting Frequency: Annually (November). Aim High Measure.	Top Quartile in South East	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	▲	A
	G		G	A			
			65.7% (Target for 2021/22: 63%)	66.6% (Target for 2022/23: 66.1%)	67.3% (Target for 2023/24: 68.2%)		
Performance Analysis: Dec-24: Healthy weight of children is measured through the annual National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), which is delivering well in West Sussex with high compliance. The Programme is delivered by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT). For the academic year 2023/24 the prevalence of healthy weight among West Sussex children in year 6 (10-11 years old) state-maintained schools, at 67.3%, is higher than the prevalence nationally (62.5%), and similar to the prevalence in West Sussex in 2022/23 (66.6%). 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: SCFT continue to deliver the Programme for 2024/2025. Public Health are progressing the development and implementation of 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). Aim High Measure.	67.0 Years	2019-2021 (West Sussex Data)	2020-2022 (West Sussex Data)	2021-2023 (West Sussex Data)	▼	A
	A		A	A			
			64.0 Years	64.5 Years	63.8 Years		
Performance Analysis: Dec-24: Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) measures the years that a person can expect to live in good health. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has now released West Sussex data for 2021-2023, and for previous periods including 2020-2022 and 2019-2021. In 2021-2023 the ONS estimate the healthy life expectancy for women in West Sussex to be 64.9 years, and for men 63.8 years, both similar to England (female 61.9 and male 61.5). Female and male healthy life expectancy are estimated to have declined from the previous period (2020-2022) where HLE was estimated at 65.2 years for women and 64.5 years for men in West Sussex. It should be noted that due to a sustained concern about the decline in the sample size of the Annual Population Survey (APS) ONS state that the healthy life expectancy dataset has used an "interim methodological fix" to estimate the age specific rate of people in good health as opposed to the APS observed prevalence. ONS have stated that (as of December 2024) they are undertaking a review of data sources to provide a durable measure of health status at a local level. 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 programmes through services across all stages of life as well as strategic approaches in collaboration with health and care partners, for example, the West Sussex Tobacco Control Strategy Action Plan.							
32	Measure: Healthy life expectancy (HLE) for women. Reporting Frequency: 3 Year Rolling Average. Aim High Measure.	67.0 Years	2019-2021 (West Sussex Data)	2020-2022 (West Sussex Data)	2021-2023 (West Sussex Data)	▼	A
	G		A	A			
			65.6 Years	65.2 Years	64.9 Years		
Performance Analysis: Dec-24: See Performance Analysis narrative in KPI 31 Actions: See Actions narrative in KPI 31							

Public Health and Wellbeing		2024/25 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). Aim High Measure.	500	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	▼	A
	A		G	R			
			354 (Target for 2021/22 = 400)	425 (Target for 2022/23 = 400)	239 (Target for 2023/24 = 500)		
<p>Performance Analysis: Dec-24: This data relates to falls prevention programmes within the West Sussex Wellbeing Programme – a partnership with district and borough councils across West Sussex. During 2023/24, 239 participants completed evidence-based strength and balance falls prevention exercise programmes within the West Sussex Wellbeing Programme across the county. During this period, there was a pause in delivery while a new Falls Prevention Programme was commissioned and mobilised, and likely impacted the end of year figure for this measure. This is one of a number of services with a falls prevention remit across the county, including NHS services which also deliver falls prevention programmes. Therefore, the number of people completing falls prevention programmes across the County is likely to be higher than the West Sussex Wellbeing Programme data reported here. The Public Health Team are exploring incorporating activity of these services within future reporting updates, to more accurately describe the level of activity undertaken.</p> <p>Actions: The West Sussex Positive Ageing Month took place during October 2024 at libraries across the county; a joint initiative between Public Health and the Libraries Service. Events increased awareness of falls prevention and relevant services, with “slipper swaps” taking place at a number of libraries.</p> <p>Activity during 2024/25 has focussed on assessing opportunities for targeting at-risk populations, including home risk assessments, maximising the Council’s assets, and working with wider partners. In November 2024, Public Health provided input to NHS Sussex GP webinars to increase awareness of falls prevention and healthy ageing services.</p>							
53	Measure: Mental health – self-reported wellbeing – people with a high anxiety score. Reporting Frequency: Annually. Aim Low Measure.	20.5%	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	▼	R
			22.4%	23.9%	24.5%		
<p><i>Please note: A RAG rating is not provided for previous data periods, as this is a new measure in the Council Plan for 2023/24.</i></p> <p>Performance Analysis: Dec-24: Data the since 2019/20 shows an upward trend, with most recent data 2022/23 showing a marginal increase in line with national trends (for West Sussex 23.9% in 21/22 to 24.5% for 22/23). West Sussex remains above the England national average (23.3%) and South East average (24.0%). The data source for this measure is the Annual Population Survey (APS) (persons aged 16+ years) from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). 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.</p> <p>Actions: This is a priority area for the County Council and partners and is a measure within the Council Plan because of the assessed level of need in the population. The Council with the NHS and partners published a comprehensive all-age Public Mental Health Needs Assessment at the end of summer 2024, which identifies population health and wellbeing needs and is designed to inform the wider health and care system. Following the publication of the needs assessment, two workshops were held in December 2024, with health and care partners across the local system, to focus on ways of working, including commissioning, to improve support for children and young people’s mental health in the county.</p> <p>The WSCC Mental Health Communication and Engagement Campaign is on-going and aligns to the West Sussex Suicide Prevention Framework and Action Plan 2023 – 2027. Other actions within the plan will continue to be progressed and monitored in Q4.</p> <p>A summary report is being developed, providing a review of both the West Sussex and Sussex suicide prevention action plans, and system-wide activities delivered to progress the key action areas identified. These actions address both directly and indirectly, suicide and self-harm prevention, and will be reported on for the period up to, and including, March 2025.</p>							
55	Measure: Chlamydia – proportion of females aged 15 – 24 screened. Reporting Frequency: Annually. Aim High Measure.	18%	2021	2022	2023	▲	G
			9.5%	11.6%	16.8%		

Public Health and Wellbeing		2024/25 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods			DoT	Year End Forecast
<p>Performance Analysis: Dec-24: Due to a change in national focus, data reporting and targets, it has been accepted for the existing Council Plan measure to align with the national indicator in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) data set, focused on the proportion of females screened rather than all persons.</p> <p>Since this KPI was included in Our Council Plan, the focus of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP), which aims to reduce the harms from untreated chlamydia infection, has been updated to focus on offering opportunistic screening to women. The rationale being that the harmful effects of chlamydia occur predominantly in women and other people with a womb or ovaries. Women and other people with a womb or ovaries include transgender men, and non-binary people assigned female at birth, and intersex people with a womb or ovaries. This means that in practice, chlamydia screening in community settings e.g. pharmacies and GPs, will only be proactively offered to young women. Services provided by sexual health services remain unchanged. Everyone can still get tested if they need, but men will not be proactively offered a test unless an indication has been identified, such as being a partner of someone with chlamydia or having symptoms.</p> <p>This measure of the proportion of females aged 15 to 24 screened for chlamydia, showed for West Sussex in 2023 (calendar year) 16.8% were screened which has increased from 11.6% in 2022 and 9.5% in 2021. West Sussex is significantly worse than the England value (20.4% in 2023).</p> <p>Actions: It remains a priority to explore potential reasons for a lower proportion of females (15 to 24 years) testing for chlamydia compared to the national figure. Implementation of the West Sussex chlamydia action plan is progressing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for a West Sussex Sexual Health Needs Assessment has taken place. It will review the sexual health and wellbeing needs of the West Sussex population including chlamydia as part of all Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). This includes a systematic review of data and perspectives of colleagues and insights from local residents. • The service specification of free emergency hormonal contraception through community pharmacies has been reviewed with the service now including the offer of chlamydia testing, where appropriate. Community pharmacies who signed up to this service began delivery from January 2025. • An expression of interest process opened in December for community, voluntary sector organisations to put forward ways to improve sexual health and wellbeing through testing initiatives to reach defined West Sussex populations. Applications for small grants were received in January 2025 and Council processes are being followed. • An expression of interest process opened in December for a provider to offer Sexual Health Training for people who work with and support young people across West Sussex. A key aim of this training will be to promote chlamydia screening. 							
60	Measure: Smoking quits	720		Jun-24	Sep-24	▶	A
	Reporting Frequency: Quarterly in arrears – Accumulated.			A	A		
	Aim High Measure.		N/A	156	304		
<p>Performance Analysis: Dec-24: This report narrative relates to activity recorded in Q2 2024/25. The data reported is a cumulative total for 4-week quits in Q1 and Q2 of 2024/25.</p> <p>The data for Q1 was previously unavailable due to the database provider for local stop smoking services encountering problems with data validation. This impacted several local authorities, meaning that the data report for Q1 could not be extracted or submitted to NHS Digital to fulfil national reporting requirements, nor could it be reported corporately within the County Council. The issue has now been rectified and an additional NHS Digital reporting window made available to affected local authorities. The Q1 total was 156 and the Q2 total was 148. Whilst the RAG rating for this measure is currently amber, additional service capacity launched in Q3, is expected to increase activity and quits in Q3 and Q4. Therefore, the Council is better placed to achieve the target by the end of Q4.</p> <p>Actions: As part of the Government’s announcement to create a ‘smokefree generation’, additional ring-fenced funding has been confirmed for local authority led stop smoking services and support, through the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant 2024-2025. The additional grant funding will enable a significant increase in service capacity, supporting those who live or work in West Sussex to quit smoking. Additional service capacity was launched in Q3, meaning an increase in quit attempts and quits is expected in Q3 and Q4.</p>							
61	Measure: Smoking prevalence in adults (18+) – current smokers (APS) - to achieve Smokefree 2030 prevalence of 5% or below.	10.2%		2021	2022	▼	R
	Reporting Frequency: Annually. (October/ November)				R		
	Aim Low Measure.		New Measure – No Data	12.4%	12.5%		

Public Health and Wellbeing	2024/25 Target	Performance Over The Last 3 Periods	DoT	Year End Forecast
<p><i>Please note: A RAG rating is not provided for data period 2021, as this is a new measure in the Council Plan for 2023/24.</i></p> <p>Performance Analysis: Dec-24: Smoking prevalence is measured by the Annual Population Survey (APS), which is reported annually and published in arrears. Consequently, the impact of current tobacco control activity undertaken for the full reporting period 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. 2023 local authority prevalence figures were published in October 2024, but the validity of these figures has been questioned by the Office for National Statistics due small sample sizes and the accreditation of the APS has been suspended for this measure. Therefore, it is not possible to provide an accurate update for this measure.</p> <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. West Sussex Public Health has funded additional Trading Standards enforcement officers, who are focussing on tacking the sale of illegal vapes and illicit tobacco in the county. NHS Health Checks, delivered in GP practices, are targeted towards people who smoke. <p>As part of the Government’s announcement to create a ‘smokefree generation’, additional ring-fenced funding has been confirmed for local authority led stop smoking services and support, through the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant 2024/2025. The additional grant funding will enable a significant increase in service capacity, supporting those who live or work in West Sussex to quit smoking. Additional service capacity was launched in Q3, meaning an increase in quit attempts and quits is expected in Q3 and Q4. The additional capacity includes a new, specialist stop smoking service, offering face-to-face and telephone-based support, and a smokefree app, providing an entirely digital stop smoking intervention.</p>				

Finance Summary

Portfolio In Year Pressures and Mitigations

Pressures	(£m)	Mitigations and Underspending	(£m)	Projected Year End Budget Variation (£m)
Assumed carry forward of unspent 2024/25 Public Health Grant	(£1.089m)	Forecast underspend within Public Health	(£0.500m)	
		Additional Public Health Grant Allocation announced for 2024/25	(£0.589m)	
Public Health and Wellbeing Portfolio - Total	£1.089m		(£1.089m)	(£0.000m)

Financial Narrative on the Portfolio’s Position

- As at the end of December, the forecast for the Public Health and Wellbeing Portfolio continues to be a balanced budget.
- The conditions of the Public Health Grant directs that all funds must be spent on Public Health expenditure, therefore any unspent grant is carried forward to the next financial year.

5. Large areas of public health expenditure are activity based, for which reporting and payments take place in arrears. Although the latest information currently available suggest the Portfolio is projecting an underspend of around £0.5m, it is recognised that this position could change in Q4.
6. This financial outlook includes the planned agreed use of Public Health funding carried forward from 2023/24, to fund eligible services that improve public health outcomes and reduce inequalities in West Sussex. This approach embraces public health outcomes across the Council, increasing the impact on improving the health of our local population and reducing inequalities.
7. It is, however, recognised that the level of population need has increased in a number of areas, including mandated public health services, for example, sexual health services and the Healthy Child Programme, and the County Council has seen changes in the way residents prefer to use some services. Alongside this, primary care continues to experience extreme pressures, impacting on delivery of services. As such, a review of delivery models across these areas are taking place.
8. Confirmation was received from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) on 12th December 2024 of an increase of £0.589m in the County Council's Public Health Grant allocation for 2024/25. This is to compensate for the cost pressure created by NHS pay awards being higher than expected.

Savings Delivery Update

9. The portfolio has no named saving targets for 2024/25.

Capital Programme

10. Currently, there are no Public Health and Wellbeing capital schemes within the County Council's Capital Programme.
11. A summary of the latest Capital Programme Budget Monitor is reported in **Appendix 4** and full details of all individual schemes are set out in the Budget Report published in February 2024.

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.