

DECISION-MAKER:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD		
SUBJECT:	Director of Public Health Annual Report		
DATE OF DECISION:	22 January 2020		
REPORT OF:	Former Director of Public Health for Portsmouth and Southampton		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
N/A	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
The Southampton Director of Public Health Annual Report 2018/19 is titled “Tip of the Iceberg: Harm related to illicit drugs”. The report focusses on drugs that are used illegally and the harms they cause.	
This report is an independent review written by Dr Jason Horsley, the Joint Director of Public Health for Southampton and Portsmouth at the time of writing the report. The report reflects the opinions of Dr Horsley in his position as Joint Director for Public Health, unless quoted as otherwise.	
This was the second Annual Report written jointly for both Southampton and Portsmouth, since the introduction of a Joint Director in 2016. The recommendations in the report are therefore applicable to both cities.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the contents of the report and consider the recommendations.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	The Director of Public Health has a duty to prepare an annual report on the health of the people of Southampton, and the council has a duty to publish his report under section 73B(5) & (6) of the National Health Service Act 2006, inserted by section 31 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012).
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2018/19, “Tip of the Iceberg: Harm related to illicit drugs”, focusses on drugs that are used illegally and the harms they cause. It does not discuss the harms caused by legal drugs, such as alcohol and tobacco, or prescription drugs that are being abused by the people they were prescribed for. Different drugs have very different effects,

	are associated with very different levels of risk, and are used in different situations by different groups of people. Most people who use drugs will do so infrequently and not develop a serious drug habit. However, some people do develop a drug use disorder, which can come with serious health and social consequences.
4.	The Director of Public Health elected to explore the topic of drug related harm specifically in 2018/19 due to levels of drug related problems observed in both cities. Portsmouth and Southampton are both relatively deprived – in the 4th most deprived decile of local authorities and both have pockets with much higher levels of deprivation. In Portsmouth for example, 13% of small areas are in the most deprived 10% of small areas in England. Looking within the cities there is evidence for the association between deprivation and problematic drug use as significantly more people who are admitted to hospital with problems related to drug use live in more deprived areas.
5.	The illicit and secretive nature of drug use means it is difficult to make any firm conclusions on how it is changing. There may be many more people using drugs than we know about who are not admitting use; it is possible that the drug use we are aware of is the tip of the iceberg.
6.	The report explores patterns of drug use, factors which contribute to problematic drug use, the provenance of drug use, health and wider harms, the debate around illegality and alternatives to current drugs policy, what we are currently doing to address drug harm and recommendations for what could be done differently.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
7.	None
<u>Property/Other</u>	
8.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
9.	The Director of Public Health has a duty to prepare an annual report on the health of the people in the area of the local authority, and the local authority has a duty to publish the report under section 73B(5) & (6) of the National Health Service Act 2006 , inserted by section 31 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The content and structure of the report is decided locally.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
10.	This is a completely independent report and opinions within it only represent those of the former Director of Public Health for Portsmouth and Southampton unless quoted as otherwise.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
11.	Any recommendations adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board, Council or other bodies should be considered in a risk management context and steps to respond to recommendations will be reviewed within that organisation’s risk management framework.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	

12.	The recommendations in this report should be considered in the context of the Southampton Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2025.
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KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2018/19: “Tip of the Iceberg: Harm related to illicit drugs”.
<i>Note: the appended version of the report is in draft format. A final version of the report will be published at https://data.southampton.gov.uk/ in due course.</i>	

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	
2.	