

Statement: CS22.01

Cabinet – 2 November 2021

Re: Agenda item 22 - Director of Public Health Annual Report 20-21

Statement submitted by: Councillor Gary Hopkins

I wish to make comment regarding 2 areas of this report.

Clearly, whilst not the only area of interest the COVID situation is of huge concern. In particular, although not the only action that we should be taking, increasing vaccination rates is a key issue.

Central government got off to a very good start on vaccinations but has somewhat lost its way with a failure to fully address so called hesitancy. Nationally we were trailblazers but now the stats show that we have fallen behind equivalent countries. What particularly concerns me is that in Bristol we have areas and communities where take up is much lower than it should be and this is affecting our cities vulnerability.

There is no acknowledgement of this major problem in the report and there is certainly no reference to how this is going to be tackled. This must be addressed.

Secondly along with nearly every other report I have seen on public health there is a concentration on eliminating the negative influences like smoking. That is all well and good but the department has a responsibility for positive promotion of beneficial areas such as gyms, swimming pools and outdoor exercise. The contraction of the council contribution here is of major concern and you will not be surprised to hear that the failure to support our community in Knowle with regard to Jubilee pool, which ticks every health, inclusion and many environmental boxes I would regard as a major failure.

The department must get more positive.