



Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Report:	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021
Author (including organisation):	Christina Gray, Bristol City Council
Date of Board meeting:	16.12.21
Purpose:	Information and discussion

1. Executive Summary

COVID-19 has reminded us of the importance of being able to breathe. Respiratory diseases, including COPD, influenza and pneumonia, are the third biggest cause of death in the UK. In Bristol, there is considerable inequality in rates of premature deaths due to respiratory diseases between the most and least deprived areas. Tobacco smoking remains the single largest cause of preventable ill health and premature death, the largest driver of inequalities in health, and the leading modifiable risk factor for poor pregnancy outcomes.

Environmental risks in the home include mould and fungal spores, tobacco smoke, air pollution from solid fuel burning, and cold homes. Outdoor air pollution comes from several sources including industry, weather systems, solid fuel burning and vehicle emissions. In 2019, 5.0% of all adult deaths in Bristol were attributable to Anthropogenic PM2.5 pollution.

The One City Plan includes many relevant goals, including on a Clean Air Zone, active travel, vaccination uptake, and smoking in pregnancy. Nine specific areas are presented as opportunities for action to support Bristol to become a healthier city: Address health inequalities; Address poverty; Targeted action to reduce harms from smoking; Support everyone to be active; Maintain and protect green spaces; Reduce inequality in vaccination coverage; Healthy homes; Healthy workplaces; Improve air quality.

2. Purpose of the Paper

Information and discussion.

3. Background and evidence base

COVID-19 has reminded us of the importance of being able to breathe; the extraordinary process which involves the exchange of oxygen, breathed in from the atmosphere, which circulates our body, nurturing every cell.

Biology

Respiratory diseases, including COPD, influenza and pneumonia, are the third biggest cause of death in the UK. In Bristol, there is considerable inequality in rates of premature deaths due to respiratory diseases between the most and least deprived areas.

The importance of COVID-19 vaccination is a reminder of the importance of our routine immunisation programmes, including flu vaccination.

Behaviour

Tobacco smoking remains the single largest cause of preventable ill health and premature death, the largest driver of inequalities in health, and the leading modifiable risk factor for poor pregnancy outcomes. Overall prevalence of smoking in Bristol has declined, but large inequalities remain. Almost 10% of pregnant women smoke during pregnancy; younger mothers and women from more disadvantaged backgrounds are most likely to smoke during pregnancy.

Physical activity has an important positive impact on health, particularly the health of the cardiorespiratory system.

Environment

Children are at an increased risk of multiple cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses because of exposure to indoor air pollution. Risks in the home include mould and fungal spores, tobacco smoke, air pollution from solid fuel burning, and cold homes.

Outdoor air pollution comes from several sources including industry, weather systems, solid fuel burning and vehicle emissions. In 2019, 5.0% of all adult deaths in Bristol were attributable to Anthropogenic PM2.5 pollution.

Access to green and active spaces and places are beneficial for both our physical and mental health. However, the availability of green space and the quality of that green space is unevenly distributed across Bristol, with central and eastern areas having fewer opportunities to access high quality green space.

Policy and action

The One City Plan includes many relevant goals, including on a Clean Air Zone, active travel, vaccination uptake, and smoking in pregnancy.

Nine specific areas are presented as opportunities for action to support Bristol to become a healthier city:

- Address health inequalities
- Address poverty
- Targeted action to reduce harms from smoking
- Support everyone to be active
- Maintain and protect green spaces
- Reduce inequality in vaccination coverage
- Healthy homes
- Healthy workplaces
- Improve air quality

4. Appendices

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021.