

# Somerset County Council

Cabinet

15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## Annual Report of the Somerset Director of Public Health – End of Life

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Christine Lawrence, Chair Health and Wellbeing Board

Division and Local Member(s): All

Lead Officer: Trudi Grant - Director of Public Health

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	<b>Seen by:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
	County Solicitor	Honor Clarke	01/11/2017
	Monitoring Officer	Julian Gale	01/11/2017
	Corporate Finance	Kevin Nacey	01/11/2017
	Human Resources	Chris Squire	01/11/2017
	Senior Manager	Trudi Grant	01/11/2017
	Local Member(s)	All	
	Cabinet Member	Christine Lawrence	01/11/2017
	Opposition Spokesperson	Amanda Broom	02/11/2017
	Relevant Scrutiny Chairman	Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey	31/07/17
<b>Forward Plan Reference:</b>	FP/17/09/15		
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>This report describes the causes and places of death in Somerset, and shows how the numbers of deaths is likely to increase significantly in coming years. It describes how end of life is currently supported in the county overall, and how individuals, families, health and care services can contribute to making end of life as compassionate and dignified as possible.</p> <p>It highlights how the whole health and care 'system' can work together to provide the best possible care, emphasizes the role of communities in providing wider support and encourages us all to prepare for the end of life, making preparations such as Advance Care Plans, and simple conversations with families.</p>		
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p><b>That the Cabinet:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. be an advocate for a calm and dignified end of life</b></li><li><b>2. encourage people to plan ahead and make their wishes known</b></li><li><b>3. be an advocate for carers and ensure the role of Somerset's volunteers is promoted and valued</b></li><li><b>4. encourage cooperation between organisations, especially at this very sensitive time</b></li></ol>		

<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>	The production of an Annual Public Health Report (APHR) is a statutory requirement of the Director of Public Health. The recommendations are based on a review of evidence on an area of concern identified by the DPH as an area where Cabinet influence can lead to improvements in the health and wellbeing of Somerset.					
<b>Links to Priorities and Impact on Service Plans:</b>	The APHR particularly supports the County Plan priority for 'Health'.					
<b>Consultations undertaken:</b>	The report has been produced after discussions and contributions from a range of people in Somerset who have experienced, or are responsible for, end of life care. These include members of CCG advisory groups, St Margaret's Hospice and NHS medical staff in a range of specialties and services.					
<b>Financial Implications:</b>	A dignified death (with fewer emergency admissions or intrusive treatments) is better for the patient and the bereaved, but also cheaper to the health and care system.					
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	The requirement for the Director of Public Health to produce an annual report is stated in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.					
<b>HR Implications:</b>	None					
<b>Risk Implications:</b>	The Director of Public Health would face censure if a report is not produced.					
	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Risk Score</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other Implications (including due regard implications):</b>	<b><u>Equalities</u></b>					
	An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this research report. However, the implications of the report for people in the last year of life are likely to apply overwhelmingly to older people; the implications for patients' families, the bereaved and the population in general apply to all ages.					
	<b><u>Community Safety Implications</u></b>					
	None					
	<b><u>Sustainability Implications</u></b>					
The report gives examples of the importance of strong, compassionate communities.						
<b><u>Health and Safety Implications</u></b>						
Not applicable						

	<p><b><u>Privacy Implications</u></b></p> <p>Not applicable to the report. However, the recommendations include improved information sharing which relies on appropriate safeguards.</p> <p><b><u>Health and Wellbeing Implications</u></b></p> <p>The report demonstrates how End of Life brings into sharp focus a range of issues related to health and wellbeing.</p>
<p><b>Scrutiny comments / recommendation (if any):</b></p>	<p>The Annual Public Health Report was considered by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The Committee welcomed the report and supported the approach to End of Life care within health and care services.</li> </ul>

## 1. Background

- 1.1. The subject matter of this report originated in this year's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on 'Ageing Well'. It was apparent that preparation for a dignified death contributed to ageing well, but was too large a subject to be covered in detail in that report.
- 1.2. The Annual Report of the Somerset Director of Public Health 2017, 'End of Life', is appended to this covering paper.

## 2. Options considered and reasons for rejecting them

- 2.1. The production of an annual report is a statutory requirement for all Directors of Public Health and there is no option not to produce it. The contents of the report are entirely at the discretion of the DPH.

## 3. Background Papers

- 3.1. The Annual Report of the Somerset Director of Public Health 2017, 'End of Life', is appended to this covering paper.
- 3.2. Previous reports, along with the statistical annexes, are published at <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/organisation/departments/public-health/>.