

## Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2019 – Prevention: Getting on the Front Foot

Lead Officer: Trudi Grant, Director of Public Health for Somerset

Author: Pip Tucker, Public Health Specialist

Contact Details: 01823 359449

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| <p><b>Summary:</b></p>         | <p>The production of an annual report is a statutory obligation for Directors of Public Health. It is an opportunity for the DPH to give an independent view of health and wellbeing priorities in the county.</p> <p>This report takes a broad overview of 'prevention'. It can come across a rather a negative term but this report argues that it's far from that. Prevention is about Improving Lives, it's about getting on the front foot and preventing or delaying negative circumstances from happening. The report argues that prevention at the 'high' (and expensive) end of need, is the most effective way to rapidly improve the lives of those that experience the worst outcomes and free up resources, enabling investment in prevention at lower levels of need. The report gives many case studies of good practice in the county. Above all, it shows that prevention is 'everybody's business'.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> | <p><b>That the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Consider the approaches to prevention discussed in the report</b></li> <li><b>2. Adopt a 'mixed approach' to prevention:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Focusing on people 'on the edge' of the highest level of need, improving their lives and releasing resources</b></li> <li><b>b. Investing in prevention right across lower levels of need to have the widest and most long-term impact.</b></li> </ol> </li> <li><b>3. Provide their own case studies of prevention to help build up a library of good practice.</b></li> <li><b>4. Consider the development of a prevention strategy for the county</b></li> </ol>  |

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|   | <b>Endorse this report, and the recommendations therein.</b>  |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>Reasons for recommendations:</b>   | Evidence presented in this report suggests that investment in prevention can promote greater wellbeing in the population and financial sustainability in public services.   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>Links to The Improving Lives Strategy</b>  | <b>Please tick the Improving Lives priorities influenced by the delivery of this work</b>   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
|   | <table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</b></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</b></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</b></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</b></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </table> | <b>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</b> | ✓ | <b>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</b> | ✓ | <b>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</b> | ✓ | <b>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</b> | ✓ |
|   | <b>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</b>   | ✓   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
|   | <b>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</b>   | ✓   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
|   | <b>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</b>  | ✓   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</b>  | ✓   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
| Increased emphasis on prevention can support the financial sustainability of services; the existence of strong communities and access to the natural environment are shown to build resilience; prevention has a significant element of addressing the needs of the most deprived people and communities first and fastest; the outcome of a preventative approach, properly applied, is a healthier and more independent population. |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>Financial, Legal, HR, Social value and partnership Implications:</b>   | There are potential long-term financial savings in a system focused on prevention rather than treatment. Effective prevention builds social value and requires significant working in partnership. There are no significant legal or HR implications.   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>Equalities Implications:</b>   | <p>The highest levels of need often concentrated in areas, families or individuals suffering multiple deprivation, as described in this report. Approaches and projects that seek to prevent people reaching this level of need should tend to reduce health, and other inequalities.</p> <p>The report does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.</p>   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>Risk Assessment:</b>   | Not applicable.   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |

## **1. Background**

- 1.1.** The production of an annual report is a statutory obligation for Directors of Public Health. It is an opportunity for the DPH to give an independent view of health and wellbeing priorities in the county.
- 1.2.** This report takes a broad overview of 'prevention'. It can come across a rather a negative term, but this report argues that it's far from that. Prevention is about Improving Lives, it's about getting on the front foot and preventing or delaying negative circumstances from happening. The report argues that prevention at the 'high' (and expensive) end of need, is the most effective way to rapidly improve the lives of those that experience the worst outcomes and free up resources, enabling investment in prevention at lower levels of need. The report gives many case studies of good practice in the county. Above all, it shows that prevention is 'everybody's business'.

## **2. Improving Lives Priorities and Outcomes**

- 2.1.** Prevention is a theme running through 'Improving Lives'. Implemented effectively, a prevention-focus requires attention being given to achieve better financial sustainability and better outcomes in well-being

## **3. Consultations undertaken**

- 3.1.** The report has been produced after discussions and contributions from a range of people across Somerset, including Zing (activities and sports), Spark (voluntary sector), Musgrove Park hospital, Somerset CCG and others, who have provided case studies of prevention at all levels and types of need.

## **4. Request of the Board and Board members**

- 4.1.** The Board is asked to consider this paper, and how its recommendations can be implemented by the Board collectively, and in their individual organisations in order to 'flip the system' towards prevention. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to support developing a prevention strategy for Somerset.
- 4.2.** Board members are also invited to provide their own case studies of prevention, to help build up a library of good practice than can be widely applied.

## **5. Background papers**

- 5.1.** The report in pdf. format is attached; the final web version will be in a 'flip book' format.
- 5.2.** The Statistical Annexe is at:  
<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=128253>

## **6. Report Sign-Off**

|                        | <b>Seen by:</b>  | <b>Name</b>        | <b>Date</b> |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Report Sign off</b> | Relevant Senior<br>Manager / Lead<br>Officer<br>(Director Level) | Trudi Grant        | 02/03/20    |
|                        | Cabinet Member /<br>Portfolio Holder<br>(if applicable)          | Christine Lawrence | 22/01/20    |
|                        | Monitoring Officer<br>(Somerset County<br>Council)               | Scott Wooldridge   | 22/01/20    |