
Annual Director of Public Health 2022/23

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Executive Lead Member:

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Division / Local Member: Applicable to all

1. Summary

- 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.

The 2022/3 report covers the impact of cardiovascular disease in Somerset taking a cricket theme to the public health issues.

- 1.2.** This report promotes:

- A healthy and caring Somerset
- A fairer, ambitious Somerset

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1.** The report outlines the burden of cardiovascular disease in Somerset and particularly the inequalities experienced by some groups in our population. It showcases a number of initiatives across the system to reduce risk factors and detect disease at an early stage where preventative action can make a difference.

- 2.2.** The report makes the following recommendations for 'a six' for Somerset:
1. Good pitch preparation: We need to develop our environment with the purpose of improving health and environmental sustainability.
 2. Doing it off your own bat: Together with communities we need to re-invigorate efforts to promote, encourage and support people in Somerset to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and all the benefits that it brings.
 3. Working on the Ashes: Call for renewed action to meet the national challenge to reduce smoking rates to 5% or less by 2030.
 4. A good fielding system: A system-wide focus on finding and supporting those with high blood pressure
 5. Taking the right treatment: Finding and sticking to the right treatments

6. Keep an eye on the scoreboard: Improve data collection and use it to help predict risk of disease and diagnose and intervene early

3. Background

- 3.1. The production of an Annual Report is a statutory requirement for all Directors of Public Health (DPH). It is the personal responsibility of the DPH, and an opportunity to give an independent view of the range of factors affecting health and wellbeing in the county.
- 3.2. Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are a broad range of conditions that affect the heart and blood vessels. Each day in Somerset, approximately five people die from cardiovascular disease and one of them will be under 75, so it takes a long and health retirement away from many people. For this reason, this group of diseases present a significant public health concern in Somerset.
- 3.3. Although cardiovascular disease does become more common with age, it should not be seen as inevitable. It is estimated that about 90% of cardiovascular disease and 80% of premature deaths are attributed to modifiable risk factors. Within the challenge of preventing cardiovascular disease and addressing the risk factors, it is useful to think about them at different phases of the disease progression, ideally beginning before disease has even started.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1. This report has been informed by discussions with people working across the Integrated Care System on cardiovascular disease. It is, however, the personal responsibility of the DPH.
- 4.2. We would also like to acknowledge the input of Somerset County Cricket Club and Somerset Cricket Foundation.

5. Implications

- 5.1. CVD nationally costs our NHS £9 billion. It also costs a further £10 billion each year to the wider economy, causing significant costs in social care and lost working days, not to mention the significant impact it has on families.

6. Background papers

- 6.1. Annual Director of Public Health 2022/3

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author