Health Beyond Healthcare: Using communities and neighbourhoods to build health

Public Health Annual Report 2025/26

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Purpose

- Statutory responsibility: Director of Public Health duty to write an independent annual report on the health of the local population, and local authority duty to publish said report (section 73B(5) and (6) of National Health Service Act 2006). The content and structure of the report is decided locally.
- Recommendation: That Health and Wellbeing Board members note the DPH's Public Health Annual Report (information), and authorise publication (decision).
- Background paper: Health Beyond Healthcare – Using communities and neighbourhoods to build health
  - A showcase/retrospective on data and activity undertaken by Public Health and system partners in 2025/26, to inform priorities and recommendations for 2026/27
  - No legal nor financial implications for HWBB consideration

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Executive summary

- The “building blocks of health” help to answer the question of “what makes us healthy,” identifying the foundation that contributes to quality of life and reduces the risk of ill health.
- Delivering preventative interventions closest to where people live allows us to address these building blocks head on, using neighbourhood-centred approaches.
- The report focuses on:
  - what the data tells us about the impact of these building blocks on society’s ability to live in good health
  - the importance of neighbourhoods in supporting people to live healthy lives and actively reduce inequalities
  - recommendations to improve outcomes in Bury



Image courtesy of The Health Foundation

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Report structure

- Chapter 1: Health starts long before the NHS – where we live, work and learn shapes our health long before we need healthcare
- Chapter 2: The economics of prevention – making the case for timely investment to impact longer-term outcomes
- Chapter 3: The power of neighbourhoods – local communities as both drivers and hosts for public health interventions
- Chapter 4: Live Well (Bury's prevention model) – programmes, initiatives and progress to help Bury residents lead healthier lives
- Chapter 5: What will success look like in 2030? – local strategy to drive progress aligned to our core aims and objectives
- Recommendations

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Recommendations

“Rebuilding” blocks for health

- **Ensure that addressing “building blocks for health” is embedded in Public Health governance and commissioning principles**, working across statutory services – social care, education, homelessness support, planning, and licensing – to normalise multidisciplinary approaches to improving health outcomes.
- **Engage local healthcare delivery partners**, namely primary care, community trusts and acute trusts, **on driving a system-wide “left shift” towards upstream prevention in Bury**, emphasising the Return on Investment of early intervention. Deliver system-wide workshops and use forums to agree an action plan, reaching BeCCoR targets.
- **Evaluate the impact of the Enhanced Live Well Programme pilot** to apply learnings to not only those experiencing multiple disadvantages, but others that encounter barriers identified by the pilot but do not meet current eligibility requirements.
- **Build on successful local activity linked to healthier environments** including restriction of unhealthy food outlets, the use of the licensing matrix, and the alcohol harm matrix.

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Recommendations

Strengthening and centring neighbourhoods

- **Continue the development of neighbourhood-based Live Well models during 2027/28** that integrate public services with voluntary, community, and faith organisations, as exemplified by the Whitefield Live Well Centre and Family Hubs.
- **Use Council regeneration opportunities alongside Public Sector Reform to centre neighbourhoods as core assets for population health**, continuing investment in parks, leisure, culture and libraries, emphasising community-led solutions.
- **Ensure that co-production runs throughout the design, implementation and evaluation of local prevention initiatives**, as a mechanism for community engagement, and to make sure planned improvements meet the needs of the people they are intended to support. Record evidence and build in evaluation for at least 90% of initiatives.
- **In 2027/28, work with VCFSE partners to strengthen community prevention in priority neighbourhoods**, broadening the influence and reach of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and drawing from micro-commissioning funds to allocate tailored resource.

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Recommendations

Enabling healthy lives and empowering individuals

- **Expand approaches that support healthy behaviours**, such as improving health literacy, social prescribing, and understanding of the Live Well offer, and empowering Bury residents to manage their health and wellbeing.
- **Increase access to prevention programmes, screening and early intervention services for long-term conditions** in neighbourhood venues, targeting support towards cohorts experiencing the greatest health inequalities.
- **Raise awareness and shared understanding of local assets amongst frontline staff**, to ensure consistency in signposting, Making Every Contact Count (MECC), and person-centred support across the borough.
- **Target social isolation and mental wellbeing as a public health priority**, with bespoke, evidence-led plans to connect people to their communities.

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Q&A



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