SCRUTINY REPORT

Bury Council

MEETING:	**Health Scrutiny Committee**
DATE:	**26th November 2026**
SUBJECT:	**Public Health Annual Report**
REPORT FROM:	**Jon Hobday Director of Public Health**
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1.0 SUMMARY

This report introduces the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2025/26, *Health Beyond Healthcare: Using Communities and Neighbourhoods to Build Health*. The Annual Report fulfils the statutory duty placed upon the Director of Public Health to independently report on the health of the local population and highlights how wider determinants of health, preventative approaches, and neighbourhood-based delivery models can contribute to improved health outcomes and a reduction in health inequalities across Bury.

The report provides a retrospective review of public health activity undertaken during 2025/26 and sets out recommendations to inform future priorities and delivery across the health and care system.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Director of Public Health has a statutory responsibility under the National Health Service Act 2006 to produce an annual report on the health of the local population, with the local authority required to publish the report. The content and structure of the report are determined locally.

The 2025/26 report focuses on the concept of "health beyond healthcare", recognising that health outcomes are influenced not only by healthcare services but also by wider factors such as housing, employment, education, transport, community safety, social connections, and the environments in which people live. The report emphasises the importance of neighbourhood-based approaches and prevention activity in addressing these wider determinants of health and reducing inequalities.

The report is structured around five key themes:

- The wider determinants of health and the impact of where people live, work and learn.
- The economic case for prevention and early intervention.
- The role of neighbourhoods and community assets.
- Delivery of the Live Well prevention model in Bury.
- The strategic ambitions required to improve outcomes by 2030

3.0 ISSUES

Positive Findings

The report highlights a number of strengths across the borough and the wider health and care system:

- A strong focus on prevention and early intervention, recognising the benefits of investing in support before health problems become more acute.

- Continued development of neighbourhood-based approaches, including the work of Public Service Leadership Teams, Family Hubs, libraries, leisure centres, Live Well initiatives and the contribution of the voluntary, community and faith sector.

- Delivery of targeted programmes addressing wider determinants of health, including WorkWell initiatives, housing interventions, active travel schemes and domestic abuse initiatives.

- Progress through the Live Well model and community outreach approaches supporting cardiovascular disease prevention and health improvement activity closer to where residents live.

- Development of healthier environments through measures such as planning policies, licensing approaches and alcohol harm reduction work.

- A clear set of recommendations designed to strengthen prevention, community resilience, co-production and partnership working across the borough.

Challenges and Areas for Further Development

The report also identifies a number of ongoing challenges:

- Persistent health inequalities linked to deprivation and wider social and economic factors affecting residents and communities.

- The need to further embed a system-wide shift towards prevention across health, social care and wider public services to reduce future demand on acute services.

- Ensuring that neighbourhood-based delivery models consistently reach those communities experiencing the greatest disadvantage and poorest outcomes.

- The requirement for robust evaluation of programmes and initiatives to demonstrate impact and inform future investment decisions.

- Continued pressures associated with an ageing population and increasing demand on public services, reinforcing the importance of preventative approaches and early intervention.

- The need to maintain strong partnership working across the Council, NHS, voluntary sector and community organisations to deliver the ambitions set out in the report.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2025/26 provides a comprehensive overview of the factors influencing health and wellbeing in Bury and highlights the importance of prevention, community resilience and neighbourhood-focused delivery in improving outcomes for residents. The report demonstrates the breadth of work currently taking place across the borough, whilst recognising the ongoing challenges associated with health inequalities and increasing demand on public services.

The report presents a clear strategic direction for future public health activity and complements wider Council priorities, public service reform activity and the Live Well agenda

5.0 RECCOMENDATIONS

- Review the contents of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2025/26, *Health Beyond Healthcare: Using Communities and Neighbourhoods to Build Health*.

- Note the findings, key themes and recommendations contained within the report and the contribution they make towards improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities across the borough.

- Note the ongoing work being undertaken across the Council and partner organisations to strengthen prevention, support neighbourhood-based delivery and improve the wider determinants of health

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List of Background Papers:-

Public Health Annual Report