



SHEFFIELD HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD PAPER

Report of: Dr Jeremy Wight, Director of Public Health

Date: 26th March 2015

Subject: Director of Public Health Annual Report 2014:
Air Quality and Health in Sheffield

Author of Report: Various as stated in papers

Summary:

Directors of Public Health have a statutory duty to produce an annual report on the health of the local population. The 2014 report focuses on what the World Health Organisation has described as the greatest threat to public health and the defining issue of the 21st century – the impact of climate change on health, principally through increased greenhouse gas emissions. The report firstly describes the scale of the challenge and then draws attention to actions that can be taken to mitigate, or adapt to, the impact of climate change, which as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, also benefit health.

The report makes a number of recommendations about improving the health of the Sheffield population by addressing issues that affect climate change. These recommendations are directed towards particular organisations or groups. There are three in particular that are addressed to the Health and Wellbeing Board (see below).

The Health and Wellbeing Board has previously requested information about the impact of poor air quality on health in Sheffield, and steps being taken to address that. Promoting 'active travel' is recommended in the DPH Annual Report as this will improve health (through increased levels of physical activity), reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. The accompanying paper summarises what is known about air quality in Sheffield, the Council's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP), and makes recommendations.

Recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- That the Board receives the Director of Public Health's annual report for 2014.

- The Health and Wellbeing Board, and Sheffield's NHS Foundation Trusts, should adopt an explicit sustainability policy aimed at ensuring that Sheffield meets its carbon reduction obligations by 2020. This should be underpinned by the adoption of a sustainability manifesto for the health and social care system in the City.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board should give urgent consideration to the ways in which the implications for carbon emissions of different approaches to the delivery of health and social care in the City can be evaluated. A system of carbon accounting needs to be developed.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board should consider how to enforce and report on actions set out in the Heatwave Plan for health and social care facilities such as care homes, before next summer.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board endorses the other recommendations contained within the report, which are addressed at other organisations.