



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting: Community Wellbeing, Health and Care portfolio

Subject: Public Health Annual Report 2023

Date of meeting: 7th November 2023

Report by: Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health

Wards affected: All

1. Requested by Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health

2. Purpose

2.1 To note that the Director of Public Health is publishing her statutory Annual Report for 2023. The topic of this year's report is poverty and the cost of living crisis in Portsmouth. The Public Health Annual Report 2023 provides an updated evidence base to support the city's tackling poverty work and its response to the cost of living challenges facing many residents.

3. Information Requested

3.1 The full report at Appendix A examines in more detail why poverty is a problem, how it has been made worse by the cost of living crisis which has put many more households in a position of financial stress or vulnerability, and what that means for communities in Portsmouth. It explores how the city council and its partners have responded and what has been tried in other areas, and makes recommendations for how people across the system can work best to maintain a focus on the underlying causes of poverty whilst addressing the immediate issues arising from the current cost of living crisis.

3.2 An accessible summary of the report will be published on the city council website for use by the council and its partners. This includes statutory and voluntary sector groups that make up the city's Tackling Poverty Steering Group, which reports in to the Health and Wellbeing Board and where this report was presented in September 2023.

3.3 The first priority in PCC's Corporate Plan 2023/24 is that "we will work to support individuals and families struggling to make ends meet", while tackling poverty is one of the priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-30. The PHAR will inform the work to address this vital work.



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Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

Public Health Annual Report 2023 (content-only version, fully accessible version with summary to follow)

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location