

DECISION-MAKER:	Cabinet Council
SUBJECT:	Annual Director of Public Health Report 2024-25
DATE OF DECISION:	10 th February 2025 25 th February 2025
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR MARIE FINN CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
CORPORATE PLAN OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES	Outcome: A healthier Southampton
	Priority: To note the Annual Director of Public Health report, including the recommendations for how residents and leaders can reduce tobacco and alcohol harm and improve health.

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
Not applicable
BRIEF SUMMARY
<p><i>This paper accompanies the Director of Public Health (DPH) Annual Report for 2024-25.</i></p> <p>Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the NHS Act 2006, the Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory duty to produce an independent report on the health of the local population, and the Local Authority is required to publish it.</p> <p>The 2024-25 DPH Annual Report, titled <i>Hope and Help: Reducing tobacco and alcohol harm in adults</i>, offers an account of recovery and resilience among people in Southampton. It includes short statements from Dr Chase and Cllr Finn, and highlights key recommendations required to reduce harm from tobacco and alcohol in Southampton. Please see Appendix 1 for the full report.</p>

This year's report takes a different approach by focusing on lived experience. It shares the experiences of seven people who successfully quit smoking or stopped drinking alcohol with the support of locally commissioned services.

The report also presents local data and reiterates some of the key commitments within the cross-council SCC Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2023-2028 (See Members Room Document 1). The report highlights the continuing harm from tobacco and alcohol locally, particularly among vulnerable adults.

Lastly, the report also provides updates on the recommendations from the 2023-24 Annual DPH report on Communities. (See Appendix 2)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

CABINET:

	(i)	<p>For Cabinet and Council to support and promote the Director of Public Health's report recommendations, which are:</p> <p>For us all</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See advice available on the City Council Website for Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs. If you smoke or drink more than 14 units per week, get support to stop or cut down. If you don't smoke, don't vape. Vaping is not risk-free. If you are pregnant or want to become pregnant, do not smoke or drink at all. Get support to help you. 2. Support people around you to be smokefree and to have a healthy relationship with alcohol. <p>For Organisations and Leaders, including the Council, the NHS and others</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Strengthen the tobacco and alcohol support in your organisation for your staff, clients or patients, volunteers and visitors. 4. Don't leave any groups of people behind. 5. Learn from people with lived experience.
	(ii)	

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	<p>Tobacco and alcohol are risk factors for many preventable illnesses and can cause wider social and economic harm. The DPH Annual Report recommendations and the cross-council SCC Tobacco, Alcohol & Drugs Strategy will benefit all Corporate priorities.</p> <p>The report aims to celebrate recovery, reduce stigma, refresh our understanding of what it means to quit smoking or seek help for an alcohol problem, and renew motivation and efforts across the system. The report specifically focuses on adult treatment and recovery this time to keep it short and readable, ensuring personal stories are not lost. It notes we have a full programme of wider work and emphasises that children and young people are also very important.</p>
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	<p>Additionally, for awareness, the related SCC Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2023-2028 has a programme of action for each Council directorate. Subsequent annual updates to the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) have reflected the latest directorate structures. The last report went to a closed development session of the HWB in early 2025 and is appended (See Members Room Document 2). Recorded progress was unequal across directorates and strongest for commissioning specialist services, Children's and public health-led programmes. The next annual report will be compiled from directorate reports in early 2026 and commitments will now be rated as red, amber or green.</p>
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
3.	Not applicable
DETAIL AND EVIDENCE (Including consultation carried out)	
	<p>In preparing this report, we approached volunteers through our commissioned support services. Recommendations also build on engagement and consultation in 2022 for the SCC Tobacco, Adult & Drugs Strategy from 2023; more recent needs assessments, and a variety of subsequent partnership discussions.</p> <p>The report will be published online in January, formatted by the SCC Design Team. A short accompanying video will be released as part of a broader communications plan to promote the annual report.</p> <p>In January 2026, Council Executive Directors will be asked to provide a progress report on implementing the related SCC Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2023-2028 in 2025 and plans for 2026. These reports will be compiled and presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2026.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Revenue</u>	
	<p>The only direct financial implication of the Annual Report will be minimal printing costs of less than 30 copies. This will be funded from Public Health Grant funding. The printing of the 2024/25 version of the report is important so it can be shared with people who contributed to it. The format of the report will result in compatibility issues that will make it too small to be easily readable on mobile devices.</p>
<u>Property/Other</u>	
	<p>No direct resource implications from the DPH annual report. The Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug strategy explicitly states that the scale and pace of implementation are dependent on resources.</p>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
	<p>The requirements for the Director of Public Health to publish an Annual Report and for the local authority to publish it are set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the NHS Act 2006.</p>
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
	Not Applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
	Not Applicable
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS including STRATEGIC IMPACT	
	<p>No direct implications on policy frameworks from either the DPH annual report or the SCC Tobacco, Alcohol & Drugs Strategy. Both support the “Healthier” commitments in the City and Corporate Plans – including the commitment in those plans to achieve Smokefree 2030 – and contribute to wider benefits for the economy. The specific commitments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Plan (p16) “Initial Priorities... Reduce the harm from tobacco, alcohol and drugs, including becoming a “smoke free” city by 2030, meaning that less than 5% of adults in Southampton smoke.” <p>Corporate Plan (p9) “Reduce tobacco, alcohol and drug use and protect young people from vaping through prevention and targeted support”.</p>

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024-25
2.	Director of Public Health report – progress since last year (2023/24)

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Strategy 2023-28
2.	Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Strategy Annual Directorate Reports

EQUALITY AND SAFETY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
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DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	

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