

Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board **Date:** 8/12/25

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Torbay Director of Public Health Annual Public Health Report

When does the decision need to be implemented? For information

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This paper provides an outline of content and recommendations of the 2025/26 public health annual report describes plans for implementation.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The annual report responds to a major challenge to every individual in the population – how to age healthily – and puts forward recommendations to promote healthy ageing for individuals and environments across Torbay.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1.1 Members are asked to note the report and invited to engage in conversations and activities to promote healthy ageing in Torbay.

1 Background

The public health annual report is a statutory function of the Director Public Health. It gives us an opportunity to shine a spotlight on an important issue for our local population. It also gives us an opportunity to make recommendations where we want to see action, either for ourselves as a council, or for partners agencies. Recent reports include physical activity, the Covid pandemic, mental health, cardiovascular disease, and in 2024, women's health.

The report is for anyone interested in the topic or with a relevant role. However the recommendations are usually directed at policy makers and implementers, commissioners and providers - ie Council teams and members, NHS partners and VCSE - and therefore these are the key audience. Wider groups, such as business and education, are a potential audience, depending on the topic. There are also messages for our communities and citizens.

An important challenge for us is to ensure the report is accessible as possible for any reader whatever their background. This has been a key consideration in the development of this report.

Our 2025 Report is on ageing – specifically Healthy Ageing – which is a significant challenge for us within the dramatic demographic context of a substantially ageing population. The nature of the challenge was set out clearly in the Chief Medical Officers *Annual Report for England 2023: Health in an Ageing Society*, available here: [Report](#) The population is projected to be substantially higher in rural and coastal areas. There are also significant inequalities in relation to ageing, with people in lower socio-economic groups ageing faster, and living more years in ill-health. All these factors are relevant for Torbay.

The Torbay [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) gives a picture of the latest local picture, and trends. A few key points:

- The population 65+ rose by 15% between 2013-2023
- This upward trend is projected to continue, with 34% of the population expected to be aged 65 and over by 2043
- The healthy life expectancy for someone currently 65 years old is 11-12 years – in line with England. This represents around *half* of our remaining lives spent in health (53% for women and 57% for men, women on average living longer).
- The level of pension credit claimants is higher than England
- The rate of those aged 65 and over permanently admitted to residential care homes or receiving long term support at home, is higher than England
- Rates of unpaid carers are higher than England across all age groups and their health and wellbeing is poorer than other groups in the population.

Development of the Report

The report has been developed in collaboration with the following:

- Colleagues across Torbay Council
- Torbay Citizens' Assembly (key partners)
- Torbay Learning Disability Ambassadors
- Active Devon
- Torbay Age UK
- Torbay & South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
- Torbay Communities
- Healthwatch Torbay
- Engaging Communities South West
- Members of the Torbay and South Devon Local Care Partnership

Partners have been particularly involved in providing insight and creative input into the report, in the form of workshop sessions, videos and interviews. They have also shared a large sample of the enthusiastic, innovative work within the Bay to promote and encourage healthy ageing, which we have referred to in the Report.

Summary of content & recommendation areas

Three products have been produced this year:

- Technical report containing evidence and discussion of key subject areas
- Webpages on the Partnerships website (main resource)
- Short easy read summary being developed in collaboration with Torbay Learning Disability Ambassadors.

A summary of the website content is below.

Chapter	Themes & content
Definitions	• Chronological, biological and environmental ageing; social perceptions • Ageing & frailty – the fitness gap • Domains of healthy ageing
How does it feel to grow old in Torbay?	• Quotes and video footage collated by Torbay Citizens Assembly
How long will I live?	• Data, lifespan, healthspan, disparities in life expectancy
Aspects of ageing: issues and opportunities	• Loneliness and isolation • Work, volunteering and caring • Housing • Transport • Social attitudes

	Digital connection
What we are doing	- Active lives / Live Longer better - Healthy Ageing Partnership - Age Friendly Torbay

Recommendations are informed by evidence of best practice, and citizen and partner views on areas where they would like to see action.

Recommendation area	Audience		
	For the Local Authority	For partners	For citizens
1. Promote interventions that increase community connectedness & belonging			
2. Promote access to work and volunteering opportunities			
3. Promote support for carers			
4. Implement Age Friendly Torbay , with a focus on the domains of Housing, Transport and Health in year 1			
5. Recognise and value the contribution of older adults to all aspects of society Promote age friendly language , policies and cultures			
6. Promote digital inclusion by engaging older adults when introducing new systems, supporting digital skills training, and ensuring alternative routes for people with no digital access			
7. Promote physical, mental, social and cognitive health through Torbay healthy ageing programmes			
8. Promote enabling health and care through the South Devon and Torbay Health Ageing			

Publication and promotion

The report is due to be available from 12 December following a launch event at the Torbay Citizens' Assembly meeting. Different aspects of the content, and the recommendations, will be promoted with stakeholders across the Bay.

Implementation

A more detailed implementation plan, with outcome measures, will be developed and shared following publication of the Report. Many of the actions are already in train.

A formal progress report on implementation will be included in the annual report for 2026/27. Updates on implementation will be shared with the stakeholders during the year.

7. Financial Opportunities and Implications

7.1 None identified

8. Legal Implications

8.1 None identified

9. Engagement and Consultation

9.1 The annual report has been developed in partnership with a range of partners identified in the acknowledgements section of the report.

10. Procurement Implications

10.1 None identified

11. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

- 11.1 Promoting health and wellbeing includes enhanced use of our natural green and blue spaces through active travel, physical activity, healthy spaces, and connecting with nature.
- 11.2 Climate change is an identified risk to older adults and activities to promote healthy ageing will increase resilience to these changes.

12. Associated Risks

12.1 No specific risks are identified.

13. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old. 55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old. 27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.	The annual report focuses on the health and wellbeing of older adults but also promotes healthy activities throughout the lifecourse.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Carers	At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.	The annual report highlights the importance of carer health and wellbeing.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness.	The annual report promotes healthy ageing including prevention and management of long term health conditions.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.	No differential impact identified.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	No differential impact identified.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	No differential impact identified.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	No differential impact identified.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	No differential impact identified.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	No differential impact identified.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	No differential impact identified.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.	No differential impact identified.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		People in more challenged socio-economic circumstances are at greater risk of poor health and wellbeing and are therefore an important target group for the recommendations of the report.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		All programmes are designed to improve population health.	All programmes are designed to improve population health.	Not applicable
Human Rights impacts		Services and providers will remain cognisant of human rights, including the right to life,	Not applicable	Not applicable

		health, privacy, education and prohibition of discrimination.		
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.	Inter-generational activities, and all age-friendly programmes, are promoted through the annual report.	Not applicable	Not applicable

14. Cumulative Council Impact

- 14.1 The Strategy takes account of priorities and activities across People and Place teams, including economic strategy, adult and children's social care, education and housing.
- 14.2 All teams are expected to take note of the needs and priorities highlighted in the Strategy when developing strategy or commissioning services.

15. Cumulative Community Impacts

- 15.1 All of these programmes involve close partnership working across the Integrated Care System, including voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, and all are intended to promote and improve health across the whole of our population.