

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Health and Wellbeing Board	
DATE OF DECISION	12 July 2024 (Rescheduled from 19 June 2024)	
REPORT TITLE:	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023 <i>From question marks to understanding: uncovering the health and wellbeing needs of our LGBTQ+ community</i>	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Andrea Fallon, Interim Director of Public Health	
LEAD OFFICER:	Jack Bedeman	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Yvette Hopley	
DECISION TAKER:	Health and Wellbeing Board	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	Constitution of the London Borough of Croydon - Part 4.L It is a function of the Health and Wellbeing board to encourage, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of people in Croydon, persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social care services in Croydon.	
KEY DECISION? [Insert Ref. Number if a Key Decision] <i>Guidance: A Key Decision reference number will be allocated upon submission of a forward plan entry to Democratic Services.</i>	No	N/A
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION? <i>(* See guidance)</i>	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory duty to produce an independent annual report to raise awareness of local health issues and health inequalities, and support evidence-based decision making.
- 1.2 The Council has a statutory responsibility to publish the report as part of Section 73B(5) of the National Health Service Act 2006.
- 1.3 The DPH independent annual report for 2023 focused on the health experiences and inequalities within Croydon's Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans and Queer, Questioning, Plus (LGBTQ+) community.
- 1.4 This marked Rachel's seventh annual report as the DPH and was presented in two parts:
 - 1.4.1. a video capturing diverse voices and experiences of our LGBTQ+ community and allies
 - 1.4.2. a written report providing additional information on the themes emerging in the video.
- 1.5 Both parts of the report highlighted challenges Croydon's LGBTQ+ community faces, while celebrating our LGBTQ+ community and what is being done in the borough to support them. They also outlined a set of recommendations aimed at fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and supportive society for all, with the ultimate goal of achieving a Croydon where everybody can thrive.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of DPH's independent annual report for 2023, including its recommendations.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 There is a statutory requirement for the DPH to produce an independent annual report to raise awareness of local health issues and health inequalities, and support evidence-based decision making. The Council has a statutory responsibility to publish the report as part of Section 73B(5) of the National Health Service Act 2006.

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1 The DPH Annual Report 2023, the production of which was delayed because of her injury, focuses on the health and wellbeing of Croydon's LGBTQ+ community. This topic was chosen when the DPH could not find sufficient local data about the LGBTQ community to formulate a LGBTQ needs assessment. This community, as a focus for an Annual Director of Public Health Report, has not been covered any other director of Public Health in England.
- 4.2 This report came in two parts:

- 4.2.1** a video featuring local LGBTQ+ residents, highlighting their experiences and health and wellbeing needs, and
- 4.2.2** an accompanying written report providing background information to the themes identified in the video.
- 4.3** Both the video and the report are published at <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/about-public-health-croydon>.
- 4.4** The video interviews local LGBTQ+ people, and relays their life experiences both positive and negative, in terms of everyday living in the borough, and their experiences of health and social care services.
- 4.5** Both the video and the report highlight that Croydon's LGBTQ+ population is a diverse group comprising of various subgroups, each with their unique needs. The video and report aim to promote a deeper understanding, of the needs of the different subgroups, taking into account the broad diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities, highlighting the poorer health outcomes, and poorer access to, and experience of health and care services.
- 4.6** The report discusses current terminology with regards to LGBTQ+ people, the estimated local LGBTQ+ population size, and covers progressing of LGBTQ+ rights in the UK, and also reports on the evidence base around the health and wellbeing outcomes for LGBTQ+ people across the following areas:
- 4.6.1** Mental health and wellbeing
 - 4.6.2** Negative attitudes, discrimination and safety concerns
 - 4.6.3** Healthy Behaviours
 - 4.6.4** Experiences of health and social care services
- 4.7** The report makes specific recommendations for organisations in Croydon to consider, which focus on leadership, visibility, policies, monitoring of services with regards to levels of local LGBTQ+ engagement, standardisation and collation of data, training, development of a detailed Health Needs Assessment, and engagement with local LGBTQ+ people to seek their feedback.
- 4.8 High-level recommendations:**
- 4.8.1** There are **three** key high-level recommendations:
 - We all need to keep questioning our assumptions.
 - We need to actively support the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community.
 - We need to ensure and promote the representation of our local LGBTQ+ community.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Not applicable.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 This report engaged with diverse members of Croydon's LGBTQ+ community, in terms of age, sexual orientation, gender identity and ethnicity to understand the health and wellbeing needs of the LGBTQ+ community in Croydon. The video produced as part of the DPH report features personal interviews highlighting the experiences of LGBTQ+ community in Croydon, alongside their health and wellbeing needs.

7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

7.1 This independent DPH report supports the delivery of a number of key council priorities, including the following outcomes in Mayor's Business Plan (2022-26):

- Outcome 5. People can lead healthier and independent lives for longer
 - Priority 1. Work with partners and the VCFS to promote independence, health and wellbeing and keep vulnerable adults safe.
 - Priority 2. Work closely with health services and the VCFS to improve resident health and reduce health inequalities.
 - Priority 3. Foster a sense of community and civic life.

7.2 The report also has crosscutting links with several other outcomes in the Mayor's Business plan, including:

- Outcome 3. Children and young people in Croydon have the chance to thrive, learn and fulfil their potential.
- Outcome 4. Croydon is a cleaner, safer and healthier place, a borough we are proud to call home.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1.1 This DPH report was funded through the ring-fenced Public Health Grant. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

8.1.2 Comments approved by Lesley Shields, Head of Finance for Assistant Chief Executive and Resources on behalf of the Director of Finance. 28/05/2024

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.2.1 Pursuant to section 31 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Director of Public Health is required to prepare an annual independent report on the health of the people in the area of the local authority, which the local authority is required to publish.

8.2.2 There are no additional legal implications as a result of this report.

8.2.3 Approved by: Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law & Monitoring Officer. (04/06/2024)

8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the provisions set out in the Sec 149 Equality Act 2010. The Council must therefore have due regard to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.3.2 The council is a pilot organisation on the Chief Executive London Councils Tackling Racial Injustice Programme. The programme requires each local authority to understand, acknowledge and support racial trauma as an issue affecting the Global Majority in workplaces.

8.3.3 This DPH report involved Croydon's local LGBTQ+ communities to understand their experiences and health and wellbeing needs. The report aims to highlight and address many health and wellbeing needs and inequalities faced by Croydon's LGBTQ+ communities.

8.3.4 Comments approved by Ken Orlukwu, Senior Equalities Officer, on behalf of Helen Reeves, Head of Strategy & Policy on 23/05/2024.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix I. The video and report for the DPH report 2023 can be found at <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/about-public-health-croydon>. A pdf copy of the written report is also provided under the document titled 'Director of Public Health Report.pdf'.