

TITLE OF REPORT: Public Health Pilot Project Update
REPORT OF: Mike Barker, Acting Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee regarding the Public Health England pilot project that the Council participated in in 2016, and next steps.
2. By way of background, in early 2016 Gateshead Council was one of eight licensing authorities that were invited by Public Health England to participate in a pilot project to evaluate an analytical package intended to support the use of health data in decision making under the Licensing Act. Health data is used by Directors of Public Health to inform whether they make representations in licensing matters, and if they do then it may be used to contextualise their concerns. However Directors of Public Health have had mixed success when relying on health data, which has to some extent led to proposals for the Act to be amended to add a fifth Licensing Objective which related specifically to health.
3. The pilot project has now completed and a full report is being prepared by the University of Sunderland. Initial findings were reported in the Lancet on 25 November 2016. A summary document prepared by Public Health England is attached to this report for information.
4. The initial findings highlight the need for accurate and timely data in order to usefully inform the decision making process, as well as the need for training for officers and Members to enable a better understanding of how health data can usefully inform decisions.

Recommendations

The Committee Members are asked to note the content of this Report.

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PLAN REF: