

PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVE NEWS

ISSUE 2 February 2024

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the second issue of Collaborative News, the newsletter which aims to provide an update on the work of the Cumbria and Lancashire Public Health Collaborative, as well as interesting update from the wider public health world.

In this update, we're sharing some detailed information about our work on smoke free, led by Liz Petch, CPH in Blackpool. Please reach out to Liz if you'd like to know more.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the progress we've made against our action plan in other areas too.

BP/ Hypertension

Following a successful partnership workshop hosted by the Collaborative, a set of system wide actions are being led by the CVD Prevention, Detection and Management Group. The Collaborative Leadership Group are looking forward to an update on this work in the late spring.

Suicide Prevention

The Collaborative Team have been talking to suicide prevention leads across the Public Health Teams in Cumbria & Lancashire with a view to presenting practice improvement suggestions to the Collaborative Leadership Group in February.

Transgender & Diverse Health Needs Assessment

Covering the Lancashire Local Authority areas, this work is gathering pace. A literature review is complete, and research is about to get underway.

Vaccination, Screening and Immunisation

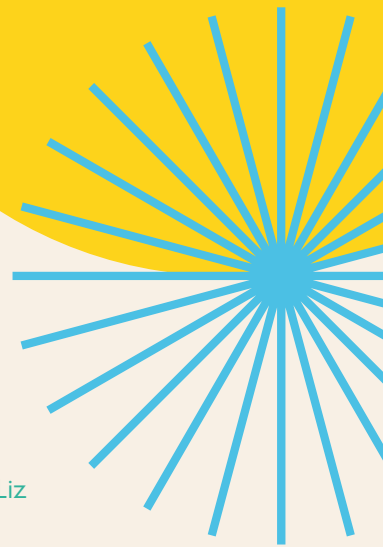
Our thanks go to Tricia Spedding and her team who hosted a fantastic workshop at Ewood Park on 26th January 2024. More on next steps soon!

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter, all feedback is gratefully received, please get in touch with the team if you want to either feed back or find out more about the work of the Collaborative.

Best Wishes

Abdul Razaq

Abdul Razaq, Chair, Cumbria & Lancashire Public Health Collaborative



Welcome Ellie!

Many of you have already had the opportunity to meet Ellie Shackleton, who joined the Collaborative Team before Christmas. Ellie has a background in research and a keen interest in Public Health - and she's looking forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks and months.



GOOD NEWS!

Top National Award for Blackburn with Darwen's Public Health Team

Blackburn with Darwen's Public Health team has scooped the national Quality Improvement Award for its work on bringing down the rates of children's tooth decay in the borough.

This award, as part of the prestigious Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) Awards, recognises a public health team for establishing ways to improve public health practice.

This year, the award went to the team at BwD who were recognised for their achievements in reducing the number of children with tooth decay. In 2019, 51% of the borough's five-year-olds had decayed, missing or filled teeth - the highest proportion in England.

By working with community health champions, and supporting initiatives to support those in the most isolated communities, the team are now seeing incredibly positive results and Blackburn with Darwen is no longer the local authority with the highest rate of dental decay for five-year-olds in England.

Nicola Close, who as ADPH's Chief Executive hosted the ceremony, said: *"Our members are responsible for the health and wellbeing of the residents in their local areas in all four nations of the UK. Many of them also give their free time to contribute to the work of the Association, which represents the voice of DsPH at a national level and so it is important that we recognise their outstanding contributions. Choosing a winner for each category was very hard as there are so many examples of our members going above and beyond to create an environment where local communities are able to live long, healthy lives."*



Population Health Teams rewarded at ICB Staff Excellence Awards

On Wednesday 6 December, staff from Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB celebrated its first Staff Excellence Awards. This was the first since the organisation was established in July 2022, bringing together eight Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Staff across the organisation work incredibly hard to support communities, develop partnership working across the NHS and health and care system and planning and supporting health and care services to best meet the needs of the population in Lancashire and South Cumbria and improve outcomes in health and healthcare.

The awards ceremony demonstrated the commitment, hard work and dedication of colleagues working within the ICB to improve and make a difference to the people and communities across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Colleagues from the Population Health team were well represented with **Pete Smith** and **Priority Wards - South Cumbria** winning awards and **Claire Niebieski**, **Vicki Wagstaff** and **Place-based teams** coming in as runners up.

Blackburn with Darwen Integrated Neighbourhood Teams also came as runner up in the "Outstanding Partner of the Year" category.

Congratulations to all!

You can find out more about all the finalists [here](#).

TOBACCO FREE LANCS & SOUTH CUMBRIA

Over recent decades, much work has been done in Lancashire and South Cumbria to reduce the harm from smoking and tobacco in communities. However, tobacco continues to cause a significant level of harm to our population.

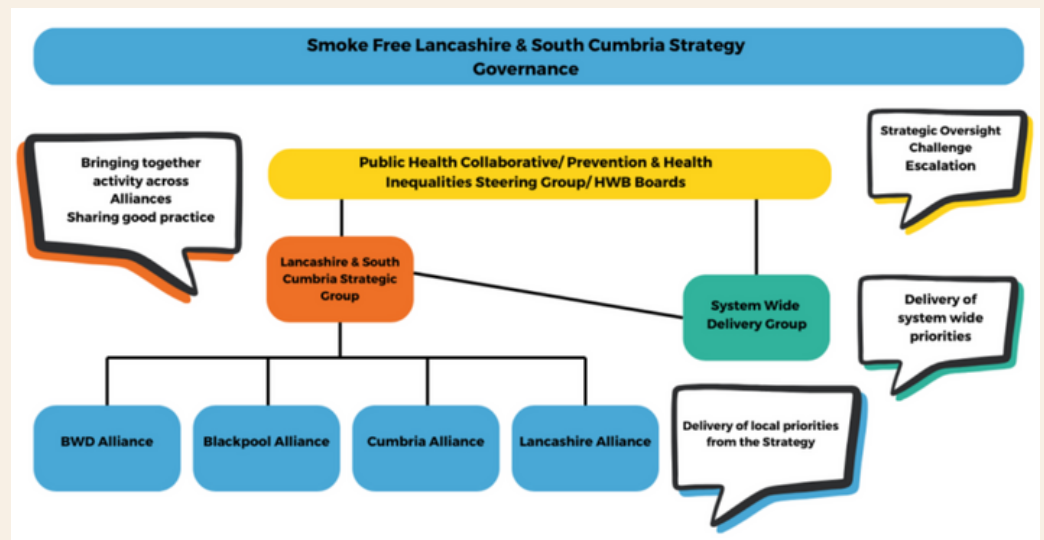
The single best action that an individual can take to improve their health is to stop smoking, it's imperative that we provide our population with a comprehensive tobacco control strategy.

We've worked together as a multi-agency alliance on the cross cutting smoke free agenda across Lancashire and South Cumbria to develop a shared strategy to stamp out tobacco harm. The strategy provides clear direction for commissioners, strategic leads and policy makers around how we can make smoke free a reality.

The strategy has been approved by Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Integrated Care Board.

Following a workshop including Public and Population Health Teams held in Lancaster in December a smaller working group have been developing governance arrangements and action plans to make sure the strategy is brought to life.

Each recommendation in the strategy has been reviewed and a high level action plan identified actions at system and at place, as well as actions that would best be led by a Local Authority team or an ICB team.

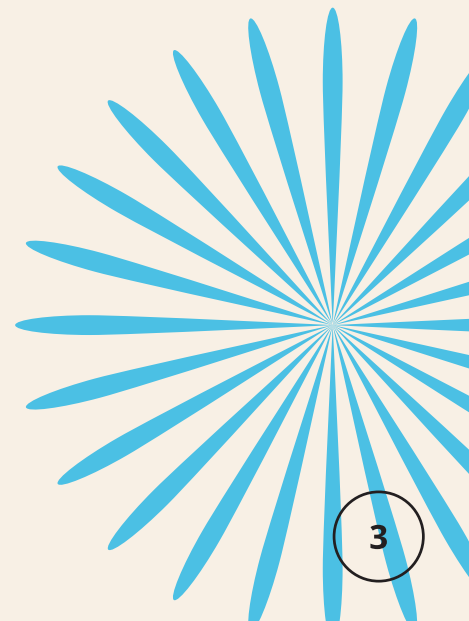


The image above shows how we'll work to make sure we make progress with the actions from the strategy. The place based Smoke Free Alliances will continue to work on priorities in place and a strategic group will meet infrequently in more of a workshop style to hear updates from Alliances and showcase good work that can potentially be replicated.

The first meeting of the Strategic Group will be in September 2024. The System Wide Delivery Group are already meeting regularly and Alliance's are re-shaping or launching in the coming weeks.

Please get in touch with the Collaborative Team if you'd like to get involved; publichealth.collaborative@blackburn.gov.uk

You can view the Tobacco Free Lancashire & South Cumbria Strategy [here](#).



POLICY UPDATES

Climate Change

Climate change poses a dual threat to lives and livelihoods in the UK, impacting both the environment and our health. Its consequences manifest on multiple levels, from direct effects on temperature and flooding, to impacts on air quality, food and water availability; with the most vulnerable populations likely to be worst affected both domestically and worldwide.

Addressing the impacts of climate change is a central priority in health protection, informing our response to current and future health risks as well as emerging challenges, such as wildfires, droughts, antimicrobial resistance, and future pandemics.

In December 2023, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) published its first Health Effects of Climate Change (HECC) report, drawing together the latest evidence on how our changing climate is already impacting on the nation's health and publishing future projections based on a plausible worst-case scenario. Since the last evidence summary in 2012, there has been substantial growth in evidence, and a significant escalation in these health risks.

Find the report here; [UKHSA's HECC report shows impacts on public health due to warming climate - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

We're talking to colleagues at the moment about future priorities for the Collaborative, if you've got ideas about how we might work together to meet the challenges climate change poses for us, please do get in touch.



Measles

From 1 October 2023 (up to the 30th January 2024), there have been 347 laboratory confirmed measles cases reported in England, with 127 of these cases confirmed in January 2024. 75% (260/347) of these cases have been in the West Midlands, 13% (46/347) in London and 7% (24/347) in Yorkshire and The Humber. The majority (233/347, 67%) of these cases are in children under the age of 10 and 24% (85/347) in young people and adults over the age of 15.

In Cumbria & Lancashire we have the opportunity to contain the virus by increase uptake of the MMR vaccination. After 2 doses of the MMR vaccination:

- around 99% of people will be protected against measles and rubella
- around 88% of people will be protected against mumps

The MMR vaccine is very safe. Most side effects are mild and do not last long.

Public Health Teams are working closely with ICB colleagues and UKHSA to help increase vaccination levels in under-immunised communities (uptake below 95%) to prevent widespread transmission and thereby protect the most vulnerable members of our community (ie the immunocompromised, immunosuppressed, pregnant women and infants).

To keep up to date with this issue as it develops, please see [UKHSA](#) or [LSC ICB](#)

