



**REPORT TO:** **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 20 AUGUST 2025**

**REPORT ON:** **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25**

**REPORT BY:** **CHIEF OFFICER**

**REPORT NO:** **DIJB55-2025**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This is presented to the Integration Joint Board to inform them of the content of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024/25.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB):

2.1 Review the information contained within the report and utilise it to support in future strategic planning in conjunction with the recently published Population Health Framework document.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 None

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 The Director of Public Health (DPH) annual report provides an overview of key health and ill-health metrics and risk factors that can be influenced to determine the likelihood and course of disease. The report informs Tayside NHS Board's monitoring of the population health across Tayside, with comparisons made to the overall Scottish average and is integral to future strategic planning.

4.2 This overarching summary of the population health in Tayside, is designed as a reference tool, for NHS Tayside and partner agencies to be informed of key population health metrics and current public health challenges. Following feedback in previous years, we hope that it continues to provide a focus for action required to improve the health of people living in Tayside and further galvanise collective effort to improve health, reduce inequalities and focus on prevention for best outcomes for all.

4.3 Key points include:

- The number of people over 75 in Tayside is expected to increase by 24% between 2018 and 2028. The birth rate in Tayside has fallen by 23% since 2008 compared to 20% for Scotland.
- Life expectancy is higher in Tayside than Scotland, but varies across the region. Males born in the most deprived areas of Dundee are likely to live 12.8 years fewer than in the least deprived. The proportion of life spent in good health varies across Tayside. Healthy life expectancy is decreasing for Dundee males, with men born currently anticipated to live only 55.9 years in good health on average.

- The gap between people dying prematurely in the most and least deprived quintiles continues to increase. Drug and alcohol-related deaths and suicide disproportionately impact people in deprived areas.
- Almost one in every three households in Dundee City are in fuel poverty and around one in every four households in Angus and Perth & Kinross. 22% of Angus, 26% of Dundee City and 18% of Perth & Kinross children live in poverty.
- Trends in cancer diagnoses have changed very little in the past 10 years. New diagnoses decreased in 2020 during the pandemic then increased again in 2021 and 2022. Lung cancer diagnoses rates have generally fallen across Scotland and Tayside, but have remained the same in Dundee City over the last 17 years. COPD hospital admission rates continue to decrease across all of Tayside.
- The number of people living in Scotland with type 1 and type 2 diabetes has steadily increased over the last 10 years. In Tayside there were 1,630 new cases in 2023 with approximately 90% being new cases of type 2 diabetes.
- Over a fifth of the Tayside population are prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis.
- Hospitalisations for psychiatric illness have decreased but are higher in Tayside, and Dundee in particular, than Scotland.
- The suicide rate in Tayside is higher than the national average with 21 per 100,000 population in Dundee compared to 15 per 100,000 for Scotland. Suicide rates vary by sex with males around 3 times as likely to die by suicide than females. There has been a general increase in suicides for both males and females in Tayside over the last 10 years.
- Children and young people's mental health has declined in the past decade, exacerbated by the pandemic. Three quarters of people with a mental health condition start developing it prior to 18 years of age.
- The alcohol-related hospital admission rate is higher in Tayside than the national rate for the first time in 10 years. Drug-related hospital admission rates have decreased in Dundee City for the first time in 10 years, but they remain more than double the national rate.
- Drug-related death rates have fallen in Dundee City for the 3rd consecutive year but is still around 50% greater than the national rate.
- The incidence of HIV in Tayside and Scotland are showing a downward trend. The infection rate for chlamydia and gonorrhoea in Tayside decreased in the last year but remain higher than the national rate.
- Teenage pregnancy rates have generally decreased, however, the rate in Tayside increased last year for the first time in 15 years.
- Terminations have been steadily increasing over the past decade with Tayside higher than Scotland (20.4 per 1,000 females compared to 17.6 in 2023).
- Two thirds of Tayside adults are meeting physical activity guidelines, however, this varies considerably by sex (68% in males and 61% in females).
- Fewer than one third of the Tayside population are of healthy weight with this proportion being lower in males than females and for people living in more deprived areas.
- Children and young people who are growing up in the most deprived areas are less likely to have a healthy weight.

- The percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks is increasing across all local authorities and deprivation areas in Tayside.
- The proportion of primary school children showing no obvious dental decay continues to improve in Tayside although deprivation is associated with poorer dental health.
- Screening uptake in Tayside in general is above the Scottish average but varies with socioeconomic deprivation.
- Uptake for many adult immunisations in 2023/24 have been higher in Tayside than Scotland. COVID-19 – 60.9% versus 56.6%, flu – 57.7% versus 53.7. Uptake for shingles, pneumococcal and RSV is higher in Tayside than Scotland. However, there is a lower coverage rate of RSV and pertussis immunisations amongst pregnant women.
- Annual childhood uptake rates declined gradually in Scotland over the past 10 years across all routine immunisations. And in Tayside, childhood vaccination coverage is lower than the average for Scotland across multiple measures.

**4.4** The current financial landscape is stark. In order to achieve best health outcomes for all, reduce health inequalities and ensure a sustainable health and social care system into the future, action must be focused on promoting and maintaining good health and wellbeing and preventing ill health from developing. This primarily means creating an environment where good health thrives.

An environment where physical activity is made accessible and encouraged, harmful substances – e.g. drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vapes, high fat/sugar foods – are not promoted nor readily available, people are engaged in good employment, poverty is eradicated, and action to mitigate climate change are imperative to ensuring best health for all of us, now and into the future.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

## **6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

**6.1** A risk assessment has not been undertaken as this report is for information.

Population Health is a strategic risk for NHS Tayside and all associated partners, the NHS Tayside controls and action being taken to mitigate this risk are reported to the Population Health Committee. In addition, a focus on improving population health is an NHS Tayside corporate objective for 2025/26, and includes the future embedding of the Population Health Framework published in June 2025 and accompanying health indicators in organisational and whole system work and governance.

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

**7.1** The NHS Tayside Population Health Committee, the Chief Officer, Chief Finance Officer and Heads of Service, Health and Community Care were consulted in the delivery of this report.

## **8.0 DIRECTIONS**

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans and this is provided for in sections 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	x
	2. Dundee City Council	
	3. NHS Tayside	
	4. Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside	

## 9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None

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DATE: 24 July 2025

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