

Report of Health Overview and Scrutiny Board Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

## **Topic                                      Public Health and Prevention**

### **Children and Young People**

- Smoking during pregnancy and delivery has been reduced by 18% to a rate of 9%.
- Worcestershire is the only region in the West Midlands to achieve a MMR rate of 90%
- A significant reduction in infant mortality – lowest in the region 4%.
- An area which has not seen improvement is Childhood Obesity –
  - Rate of obesity is 9.1. % at Reception rising to 22% by year 6.
  - Measures taken are – launched an innovative grant scheme for schools and youth settings.
  - Over 200 grants have been awarded to enable improved outdoor play area, sensory and wellbeing spaces, gardening projects.
- Public health work on children by Worcestershire Public Health department has been recognised and has been nominated for a Royal Society Public Health Award.

### **Adults**

- Number of people accessing Substance Misuse Treatment has increased from 1852 to 3060 in the last 12 months.
- Increased physical activity to prevent number of illnesses.
- Use of Resistance Bands = improves physical activity, along with overall conditioning, strength and balance.
- Healthy Worcestershire in collaboration with district and parish councils runs an integrated health improvement programme.
- Healthy Worcestershire supports projects such as walking, running and cycling.
- Bike Worcester runs a Bike Bus and Bikeability schemes, encouraging people to become keen cyclists.

### **Overview for the next 12 months**

- Female life expectancy is highest in Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills and Wychavon locally and much higher than the national average.
- Public Health is targeting priority neighbourhoods.