

Knowsley Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Environment

This report

This report has been prepared jointly by Knowsley Council, the Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). It is one of a series of reports that comprise Knowsley's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

Its purpose is to provide an analysis of the environment and related issues in order to address question such as:

- How much impact do these issues have on local people?
- Can this impact be reduced through local action?
- Can local action reduce health inequalities?
- Will local action on this help address other issues too?

This report, along with others produced as part of the JSNA, will be used to inform strategies and plans produced by the Council and its partners. In particular, the JSNA meets the statutory responsibility that the Council and CCG share to study the needs of local people in order to inform the development of a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The JSNA is also the main source of intelligence used to develop the Knowsley Partnership's 'Strategy for Knowsley'.

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For a PDF copy of this report, and other research intelligence products, visit **Knowsley Knowledge** – the website of Knowsley's JSNA

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ENVIRONMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Report

This report looks at the environment and its impact on residents to determine the following:

- How the environment impacts on local people?
- Can this impact be reduced through local action?
- Can local action reduce health inequalities?
- Will local action on this help address other issues too?

Understanding these things helps the Health and Wellbeing Board determine the level of priority that this issue should be given in the Borough's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The report covers three specific topics in relation to the environment that impact on health:

- Green spaces
- Climate change
- Environmental Health (Air Quality, Contaminated Land, Nuisance, Environmental Crime & Dog Control).

1.2 Sources of Data and Intelligence Available

There is a wide range of information available relating to climate change and environmental health. This includes the Public Health Outcomes Framework, and data and studies published at the national level by the Environment Agency, NHS, Public Health England, Department of Health and North West Climate Change Partnership.

A range of data and intelligence is also available at the local level, including local monitoring data, traffic information and control of industries by Environmental Permits. The quality of local data is good although there are some gaps, for example, due to the breakdown of equipment. It is also not possible to monitor air quality levels in all locations of the Borough.

1.3 Why the Environment is Important?

The environment and health are inextricably linked. Living in an environment you are happy in is proven to improve a person's quality of life and health. Access to green spaces, climate change and environmental health factors such as air quality, contaminated land, public nuisance (noise, pest control,

dust etc.) environmental crime and dog control all affect the environments in which people live. All of this affects people's quality of life and overall health and wellbeing. Below provides an overview of each;

Green Spaces

Natural green spaces can have a positive impact on health by providing venues for physical activities to help to reduce the risk of a range of health conditions associated with an inactive lifestyle. Health activities in green spaces can also help with rehabilitation, for example low level walking activities for people who are recuperating from cardiac problems. Green spaces can also promote improved mental health and wellbeing. Undertaking positive activities in green spaces has been proven to improve wellbeing, for example gardening on allotment sites, volunteering activities and taking part in team building activities.

Climate Change

It is now widely recognised that climate change plays a significant part in the health and wellbeing of local communities. In the North West of England, the UK Climate Impact Programme (based at Oxford University) has predicted that the region will experience hotter/drier summers, warmer/wetter winters and more extreme weather events such as heat waves and flooding. The Environment Agency, working with the Department of Health, NHS and Public Health England, established the following 'Significant Seven' effects of climate change on health, wellbeing and the health of the social care system:

- i. **Increased heat related illness and death** – increased mortality from respiratory and cardiovascular disease.
- ii. **Flood related illness and displacement** – as well as injury and infection, the effect of flooding on mental health is well documented and a considerable part of the overall health burden.
- iii. **Increase in food, water and vector borne diseases** – an increase in incidences of infections may be seen due to higher temperatures, drought, flooding, changes in habitat and rainfall patterns.
- iv. **Health related impacts relating to air quality and aeroallergens** – high temperatures are linked to poor air quality and climate change may result in earlier seasonal appearance of respiratory symptoms and longer duration of exposure to allergens such as pollen.
- v. **Skin cancer and sunburn** – excessive exposure to UV may have consequences ranging from premature aging to skin cancer. Malignant melanoma incidence rates in the UK have more than quadrupled over the last 30 years.
- vi. **Pressure on health care providers to keep services running in the face of extreme weather** – droughts and storms may impact on service delivery as they become more common in future. This includes the ability to deliver services in the community.

- vii. **Increase in health inequalities** – between different population groups, e.g. increases in fuel and food prices, reduced access to heating, cooling, health services, education and food security.

Environmental Health

Healthy environments are essential to the achievement of long-term improvements in the health of the population, in creating and maintaining sustainable communities. Conversely, environmental degradation and global changes in climate, habitat, energy supplies and other key stressors can all have significant health consequences.

Air Quality

Poor air quality is a significant public health issue and can be a result of vehicle emissions, industrial process emissions and bonfires. Air pollution is associated with a myriad of health problems including respiratory diseases such as emphysema and bronchitis, asthma, impaired lung development in children, premature births and low birth weight, lung cancer and heart disease.

It has been estimated that particulate air pollution in the UK is a contributor in nearly 29,000 deaths in 2008 and is associated with 340,000 life years lost.

Knowsley Council, as well as all other local authorities, is required to examine air quality in its boundary to identify any problems that they may have in relation to certain pollutants including nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulates. If monitoring shows that air quality in a particular area is poor, the local authority can declare an air quality management area and take measures to improve the air quality.

Contaminated Land

Contaminated land can potentially pose a risk to human health and the environment. The issue can arise due to former uses of the land or activities that have taken place on the land.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines contaminated land as 'any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by means of substances in, on or under the land that:

- a) significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or
- b) pollution of controlled waters is being, or is likely to be, caused.'

Depending on what the land is being used for, users may become exposed to contaminants within the land by inhalation of dust or gases or contact with

soil, as well as through food grown on the land. Human health effects may range from respiratory or skin irritation to increased frequency of cancer or birth defects.

There may also be indirect effects on users such as damage to buildings. Substances can be washed out of soil (leaching) to pollute groundwater, rivers or ponds. Some contaminants may be corrosive, and some can cause an explosion or fire. The effects on human health and the environment will depend on the type and amount of contaminant involved and this is determined by intrusive investigations.

Local authorities have four main duties under the legislation, these are:

- i. To produce a Contaminated Land Strategy
- ii. To inspect the borough to identify contaminated land
- iii. To ensure that contaminated land is remediated
- iv. To record certain prescribed information regarding regulatory actions on a public register

Nuisance and Public Health Complaints

Statutory nuisance can be a significant issue for people. For the sufferer it can cause disruption, interference and irritation and in some cases lead to the development of stress and loss of sleep.

A statutory nuisance is defined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Broadly, a public nuisance is any act which, without specific legal authority for it, results in or is likely to result in or is likely to recur, causing an unreasonable reduction in amenity or environmental quality in a way common to several people at once.

For the issue to count as a statutory nuisance it must do one of the following:

- unreasonably and substantially interfere with the use or enjoyment of a home or other premises
- injure health or be likely to injure health.

Matters which are declared as a nuisance include premises in such a state that they are prejudicial to health or a nuisance, these include; noise, dust, smoke, accumulations of waste, artificial light, fumes and gases and insects.

The Council has a legal duty to:

- inspect its area from time to time to detect statutory nuisance which ought to be dealt with;
- take such steps as are reasonably practicable to investigate a complaint of a statutory nuisance made by a person living in its area; and

- to serve an Abatement Notice where the Local Authority is satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists or is likely to occur or recur within the area of authority.

In addition, drainage, pest control and accumulations of waste also impacts on the environment. The Council also deals with these issues and investigates complaints received from residents and businesses to determine whether the issue is “prejudicial to health or a nuisance” or whether a wider public health concern exists.

The Council also takes a proactive approach to assessing licensing and planning applications in order to require conditions to be put in place to prevent either a reduction in amenity of residents or a statutory nuisance.

Environmental Crime and Dog Control

Environmental crimes can be broadly defined as illegal acts which directly harm the environment. Environmental crime is an umbrella term for many different crimes which have a detrimental effect on the places in which we live. It can include anything from littering in the local community to the global trade in illegal wildlife products. In Knowsley the term environmental crime refers to issues such as fly-tipping and the illegal management, or mismanagement, of waste, dog faeces in public places and litter.

Dog control is also considered an environmental crime. Stray dogs and dogs not under control can impact on the environment. A stray dog is likely to foul and the faeces remain where deposited, in addition an out of control dog may cause road traffic accidents. A dog straying or out of control can scare people and prevent them from enjoying the environment and open spaces.

1.4 POLICY CONTEXT

Maintaining and improving the environment directly supports the Council’s and wider partnership’s vision to make Knowsley the Borough of Choice through achievement of the following outcomes:

- **A thriving and diverse economy** – green spaces and a quality environment can attract and retain businesses to create jobs and local prosperity;
- **Healthy, safe and financially secure residents** – as outlined above health and the environment are inexorably linked;
- **Attractive and sustainable neighbourhoods, towns and green spaces** – development of our green spaces and maintaining a quality environment will directly support this outcome.

2 IMPACT ON KNOWSLEY RESIDENTS

2.1 Green Spaces

The Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010 ('The Marmot Review') highlighted that living close to areas of green space can improve health, regardless of social class, providing direct benefits to both physical and mental health and wellbeing. Specific examples included a decrease in health complaints in relation to:

- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol
- Mental health
- Stress levels

Green spaces therefore have a vital role in reducing health inequalities. The Marmot Review informed the Public Health Outcomes Framework, which includes the following indicator:

- Utilisation of Outdoor Space for Exercise / Health Reasons

The latest data available relates to March 2013 to February 2014, which indicates that only 10% of Knowsley residents utilise outdoor space for exercise/health reasons. Trend data indicates a marked increase in 2012/13, but a slight decrease in 2013/14:

Period	Knowsley	North West	England
Mar 2011-Feb 2012	4.5%	12.0%	14.0%
Mar 2012-Feb 2013	10.7%	15.0%	15.3%
Mar 2013-Feb 2014	10.0%	13.8%	17.1%

Source: Natural England: Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey¹

¹ The values quoted include a lower and upper 'Confidence Interval' which indicates the range that the estimated values may fall within, as the data is based on a sample of the population. For example, for an estimate of 10.0% of the population, this could indicate a possible low value of 6.1% (lower Confidence Interval) and possible high value of 13.8% (upper Confidence Interval).

Data for March 2014 to February 2015 is expected to be published in February 2016

2.2 Climate Change

Research from the 'Climate Just' initiative indicates that the impacts of climate change will disproportionately affect the health of the most vulnerable people. In particular this may increase health inequalities in areas of high deprivation, such as Knowsley.

The Heatwave Plan for England – Making the Case, sets out those vulnerable people at greatest risk during heatwaves (and other extreme weather events):

- **Older people:** especially those over 75 years old, or those living on their own who are socially isolated, or in a care home
- **Chronic and severe illness:** including heart conditions, diabetes, respiratory or renal insufficiency, Parkinson's disease or severe mental illness. Medications that potentially affect renal function, the body's ability to sweat, thermoregulation (e.g. psychiatric medications) or electrolyte balance (diuretics) can make this group more vulnerable to the effects of heat.
- **Infants:** who are vulnerable to heat due to their immature thermoregulation, smaller body mass and blood volume, high dependency level, dehydration risk in case of diarrhoea
- **Homeless people:** Higher rates of chronic disease, smoking, respiratory conditions, substance dependencies and mental illness are more frequent in homeless populations.
- **People with alcohol and drug dependence:** often have poorer overall health and increased social isolation which can increase their risk of heat stress
- **Inability to adapt behaviour to keep cool:** such as Alzheimer's disease, a disability, being bed bound, drug and alcohol dependencies, babies and the very young
- **Environmental factors and overexposure:** living in urban areas and south facing top floor flats, being homeless, undertaking activities that are in hot places or outdoors with high levels of physical exertion children and adults taking part in organised sports
- **Other groups of people:** older carers, tourists and people attending large scale public events.

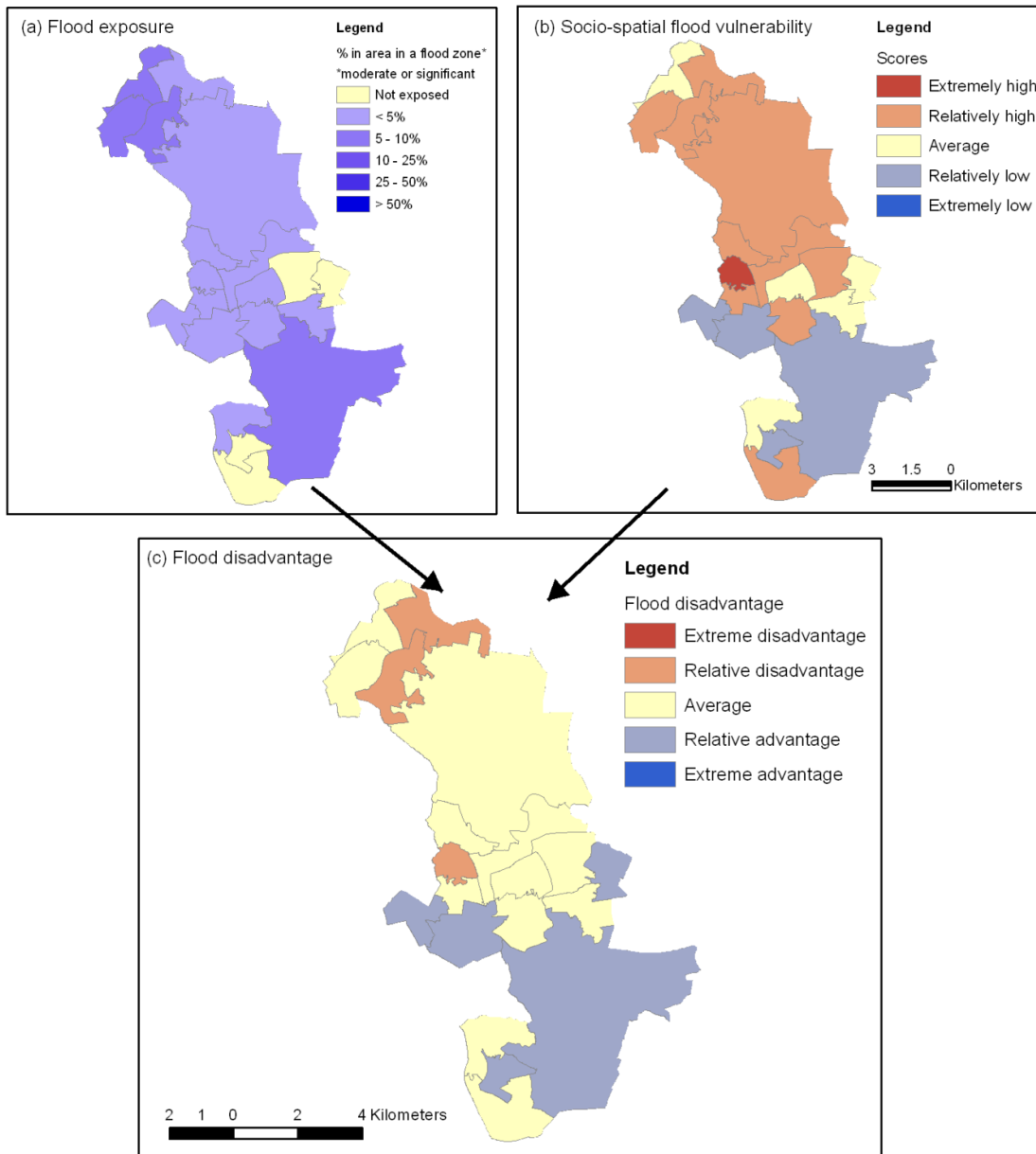
Preliminary work was undertaken by Manchester University for Knowsley Council to analyse socio-spatial flood vulnerability and disadvantage in the Borough. This data compared flood exposure with socio-spatial information to produce a flood disadvantage map. Factors used were:

- **Enhanced exposure** – characteristics of physical environments that tend to enhance or offset exposure (including amount of green space);

- **Ability to prepare** – characteristics that tend to encourage or discourage anticipatory actions being taken;
- **Ability to respond** – characteristics that explain the extent to which action can be taken to avoid harm during an event; and
- **Ability to recover** – characteristics that help or prevent the process of returning to normal afterwards.

The research indicated that Knowsley is associated with three relatively disadvantaged neighbourhoods with respect to flooding (based on Middle Layer Super Output Areas) – two areas in North Kirkby and one in Stockbridge Village (Figure 1). Examples of characteristics that influence the ability to prepare/respond/recover from a flooding event that are relevant to Knowsley include low incomes, social isolation, disability, access to private transport, single elderly persons and lone parents with dependent children.

Figure 1 Socio-spatial flood vulnerability
(Climate disadvantage patterns in Knowsley)



Source: Sarah Lindley, Jan 2013 – based on data generated from Lindley et al 2011, JRF
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/climate-change-justice-and-vulnerability>

2.3 Environmental Health

Air Quality and Pollution - Air quality, good or bad, has the potential to affect all residents. Recent reports have shown air quality in Knowsley to be good. No air quality management areas have been declared and no further detailed assessment of the monitored pollutants is required.

Contaminated Land -There is no data with regards to the number and characteristics of people affected by contaminated land. In recent years sites have been remediated and made suitable for the intended use prior to being developed. As development in the Borough increases, conditions will be attached to planning permissions to require assessment and remediation of contaminated land where required. This reduces risk to human health.

Nuisance, Public Health and Environmental Health Complaints - Nuisance complaints from commercial and domestic properties have increased over the since 2012-13. The table below show the number of nuisance, public health and environmental crime complaints received by Environmental Health & Consumer Protection, from both residents and businesses. Environmental Crime and Dog Control consistently received the most complaints, suggesting that this is the most prominent and visible problem in the Borough. The table also shows that the volume of complaints is increasing across all service areas which could be linked to the continued reduction in resources.

Service requests received by Environmental Health

Nature of complaint	Financial year		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Pollution	233	205	262
Environmental Crime (including waste)	766	1061	1527
Dog Control (including dog fouling and stray dogs)	930	1207	1371
Drainage problems	108	83	87
Noise	514	556	748
Nuisance (excluding noise)	20	54	103
Pest control concerns	15	34	149
Planning Consultations	324	400	451

Source: Knowsley Council service requests received by Environmental Health

2.4 Residents, Communities, and Stakeholders Views

Consultation on these issues was undertaken with the four Local Advisory Groups for the borough the findings of which are provided below;

Green Spaces

There was agreement that green spaces can significantly benefit health. Concerns were expressed in respect of issues that may reduce the use of green spaces for health activities.

Also highlighted was the positive wellbeing aspect of the presence of green spaces, for example the wildflower planting on Valley Road in Kirkby promotes a sense of wellbeing and pride in the area.

Proposals for increasing the use of green spaces for health activities included:

- Ensuring that there is suitable provision for people with disabilities;
- Take advantage of opportunities to provide continuous cycle paths around the borough;
- Increase the promotion of events and activities in green spaces;
- Increase the promotion of volunteering opportunities in green spaces; and
- Ideas to discourage anti-social behaviour without PCSOs.

Climate Change

There was concern expressed by the stakeholders that there may be an increase in the number of reported cases of diseases such as malaria, particularly around stagnant water, such as the Ducky Pond in Halewood. There was also support expressed for the need to reduce carbon emissions to mitigate the severity of climate change in the future.

During the development of the Knowsley Partnership Climate Change Strategy in 2011, a consultation was held to find out more about the views of residents, businesses and community groups. The responses were overwhelmingly positive towards taking action on climate change, however only half of residents and businesses responded that they understood how climate change might affect them in the future. The responses to the consultation showed that although people viewed climate change as important it was not always clear how this issue would impact on their day-to-day lives.

Environmental Health

Work in relation to environmental crimes such as waste and dog fouling in the area remains a concern and it was felt that in certain areas there were hotspots which required further action. Concerns in relation to dog fouling for residents who are wheelchair users were specifically highlighted.

Dealing with noise and other nuisances in a timely manner remains a priority issue for residents in Knowsley to ensure a good quality of life for those affected. There was recognition from the Local Advisory groups that noise and

wider environmental health and nuisance issues could be detrimental to resident's health and initiate other concerns, such as mental health issues.

3 THE SCALE OF HEALTH AND OTHER INEQUALITIES

3.1 Green Spaces

The Public Health Outcomes Framework Indicator 1.16 indicates that during the period March 2013 to February 2014, only 10% of Knowsley's residents utilised outdoor space for health reasons. This is low compared to the North West average of 16.7% and the England average of 17.1%. It is also low when compared with other Liverpool City Region areas:

Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise/health reasons

Local authority area	% population utilising outdoor space for exercise/health reasons 2013/14
Wirral	20.7%
Liverpool	16.4%
St Helens	14.1%
Sefton	13.0%
Knowsley	10.0%
Halton	9.2%

Source: Natural England: Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey

3.2 Climate Change

The health impacts of climate change will disproportionately affect people who are living in areas with high levels of deprivation. As Knowsley has the second highest proportion of deprived neighbourhoods in England, it is likely that the health of Knowsley residents will be affected more by climate change impacts than other areas of the country.

Research by Manchester University has highlighted three areas in Knowsley (two in North Kirkby and one in Stockbridge Village) that are socio-economically disadvantaged in respect of flooding. This research fed into an initiative called 'Climate Just', which has recently been launched by Climate UK, the Joseph Roundtree Foundation, Environment Agency and Manchester University. As part of this initiative, a mapping tool has been produced which can be utilised to determine which people and places are likely to be most vulnerable to extreme weather, including flooding and extreme heat. There is some basic data available on the Climate Just website which highlights the number of Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MLSOAs) that would be affected in Knowsley (but not the location). This highlights that there are differences in vulnerability across Knowsley, and further research/

investigation would be required to identify these areas and develop plans to mitigate the impacts.

Vulnerability to flooding in Knowsley

	No. of MLSOAs
Total in Knowsley	20
Flooding	
Number with extremely high inability to prepare for flooding	0
Number with extremely high inability to respond to flooding	3
Number with extreme high inability to recover after flooding	5
Number with extremely high flood vulnerability	3
Heat	
Number with extremely high inability to prepare for high temperatures	0
Number with extremely high inability to respond to high temperatures	7
Number with extreme high inability to recover after high temperatures	1
Number with extremely high heat vulnerability	5

Source: <http://www.climatejust.org.uk/map>

3.3 Environmental Health

It is difficult to compare air quality and contaminated land issues between authorities as there are a number of potential variations, such as;

- Population numbers
- Road networks / Vehicle use
- Former uses of land
- Town / City centre use
- Types of residential properties i.e. houses/flats.
- Proportion of deprivation

The Public Health Outcomes Framework includes an indicator linking air quality to adult mortality: The fraction of mortality attributable to anthropogenic particulate air pollution (measured as fine particulate matter, PM_{2.5})²

This outcome indicator is the percentage of all-cause death in adults over 30 attributed to air small (<2.5ug) particulate, man-made air pollution. It is a modelled estimate based on the relative risk incurred per 10 ug/m³ increase above local average background levels.

² <http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#gid/1000043/pat/6/ati/101/page/6/par/E12000002/are/E08000011>

The attributable fraction in England is 5.4%, whilst for the North West as a whole this is lower, at 4.6%. In Cheshire and Merseyside fractions are: Knowsley 4.8%, Halton 4.9%, St Helen's 4.9%, Liverpool 4.7% and Sefton 4.1%.

Local monitoring data, the planning system, traffic information and control of industries by Environmental Permits have been utilised so that there is a continuing examination of the local air quality to ensure that all Air Quality Objectives set by the Government are met.

The Council's background urban air quality monitoring site (2008–2014) appears to indicate a stable level of pollutants and based on the findings of the current Progress Report, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council has found that the levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulates (PM10) do not exceed the specific Air Quality Objectives and therefore has identified there is no need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for either of the pollutants.

As no air quality management areas have been declared throughout the borough, it can be considered that there is no difference between location and population groups.

Road transport is the main source of local air pollution in Knowsley and has shown a decrease in air pollution levels in recent years. The Council's background urban monitor site appears to indicate a stable level of pollutants.

Nuisance, Public Health and Environmental Crime

The national statistics around general nuisance are limited, however there are some available for noise nuisance. In 2014 340 out of 374 local authorities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland (noise laws are different in Scotland) responded to a survey, carried out by noisenuisance.org. The survey showed that the average number of noise complaints received by each authority was 385. This demonstrates that the number of complaints received in Knowsley is above average.

The survey also confirmed that there was a clear relationship between population density and proportion of complaints received, and Knowsley does have areas with a high population density, hence one reason for the higher number of complaints.

Although the number of complaints is high, the number of times enforcement action is required, i.e. through the serving of an abatement notice, is very low (1%) as the majority of cases are resolved through informal negotiation.

Across the borough, and considering the areas as Cronton, Halewood, Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot, Stockbridge Village and Whiston, there does not

appear to be a difference between the locations and population groups in Knowsley. This is in regard to nuisance, public health and environmental crime issues when looked at in proportionality, i.e. we receive more complaints from the residents of Huyton than any other area alone due to Huyton having the largest population.

Contaminated Land

There is no information available with regards to contaminated land and the difference between locations and population groups within Knowsley.

4 CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION AND ACTIONS

Given that the environment is recognised as important in Knowsley, there is already significant activity related to the issue, being led by the Council and its partners. Below are the key policy, strategy developments and activities being undertaken to address environmental issues.

4.1 Green Spaces

The Environmental Sustainability Service within Knowsley Council is responsible for the development and maintenance of Knowsley's green spaces in addition to providing activities to encourage the use of green spaces to improve health. The service includes Green Space Development Officers, Environment Officers, Rangers and maintenance staff.

Facilities include:

- 28 parks and gardens
- 28 natural green spaces such as woodlands, grasslands and wetlands
- 39 play areas including multi-use games areas and skate parks
- 13 playing pitches
- 5 bowling greens

There are also Environment Centres at Halewood Park and Stadt Moers Park.

4.2 Climate Change

Although the Environmental Sustainability Service has a lead role in developing a climate change strategy for the Council, individual services involved in health strategy development and service delivery need to be able to understand the key issues and incorporate mitigating action within their strategy development and business planning.

4.3 Environmental Health

The Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Service within Knowsley Council are responsible for the delivery of a wide range of services which impact on both Environmental and Public Protection. The service is responsible for discharging the Council's statutory Environmental Health duties. The service includes Environmental Health Officers, Environmental Health Enforcement Officers, Environmental Protection Officer and Dog Wardens.

5 HOW EXPECTED TRENDS ARE LIKELY TO IMPACT ON SERVICE PROVISION

5.1 Green Spaces

Given that the healthy life expectancy of Knowsley residents is well below the average for England, the low level of use of the Council's green spaces as reported in the Public Health Outcomes Framework for 2013/14, and recognition of the significant contribution green spaces can make to health, it was recognised that there was scope to further utilise Knowsley's natural environment to:

- Provide places to enable the wider community to undertake physical activity to help prevent obesity and related medical diseases; and
- Bring people close to the natural environment and through such interaction help their physical and mental health and in so doing improving their sense of wellbeing.

The Environmental Sustainability Service has already developed a range of health related programmes in conjunction with Public Health and other services.

The Environmental Sustainability Service (ESS) has researched best practice and developed a range of innovative programmes to utilise green spaces to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people who live and work in Knowsley.

ESS (Green Space Rangers) have been commissioned by Knowsley's Public Health Service to improve the health and wellbeing of Knowsley residents by encouraging greater independent use of the borough's parks and green spaces providing a tailored programme of activities and events. This includes:

- Supporting volunteering by providing opportunities in local parks, cemeteries and allotments;

- Supporting health groups by providing opportunities for residents to take part in healthy activities including Ranger-led activities and support to organised cycling activities, Nordic walking, nature walks, weight management classes and cardiac and stroke walks; and
- Supporting community health through the delivery of family events and community activities including bat walks, stargazing in the park, family fun days, bowls taster sessions and support for partner events such as Pedal Away bike events and British Orienteering Xplorer events.

In addition, ESS have been commissioned by other services to deliver health outcomes for specific projects:

- Supporting the Headstart programme (which aims to improve resilience and develop the positive emotional wellbeing of young people) with an Environmental Outdoor Activity Programme.
- Supporting the Early Years Team with a 'Small Steps' programme to underpin the new 'Development Matters' programme in the natural environment allowing children to be more physically active whilst learning key skills. This has also resulted in the delivery of additional sessions for schools not within the scheme as a traded service.
- Development of an Ecotherapy Service to improve both mental and physical wellbeing by helping people become more active in the natural environment. This has primarily been targeted at local businesses to benefit their workforce as part of the Working Well Grant.
- Development of the 'Green Challenge' project for looked after children in Knowsley to provide a natural and inspirational pathway to support their transition into adulthood and leaving of the care system.

The Key Successes of these programmes is illustrated in the diagram attached at Appendix A.

Knowsley Council are also a member of the Natural Health Service, a group of organisations that have come together to provide a single contact point to well-developed services in the natural environment, proven to tackle a range of health and wellbeing issues.

5.2 Climate Change

Although there is no data specific to Knowsley, the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment suggests that:

- The annual number of flood victims suffering anxiety, depression or other mental problems could double by 2050
- Hospital admissions for respiratory diseases resulting from a rise in concentrations of ground level ozone are projected to rise by between 2,300 and 10,000 by the 2080s, from the current figure of around 33,000 a year.

In addition, the 'Significant Seven' effects of climate change on health and wellbeing will heavily impact health and social care services by increasing the burden of disease. This has the potential to be felt more acutely in Knowsley due to the high level of deprivation and disproportionate impact on the population as a result of climate change.

5.3 Environmental Health

The Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Service regularly researches and implements best practice to assist with developing processes that are effective and adopt the best use of resources. With this approach the service has achieved a good level of service for the residents of the borough which contributes to improving the environment, public health and reducing health inequalities.

Air Quality - The Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Service will continue to monitor the air quality of Knowsley and are increasing the number of monitoring locations in the borough in order to gain as much data as possible which in turn will assist us in categorising the borough's air quality.

Nuisance, Public Health and Environmental Crime - Service requests will continue to be received by The Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Service and as can be seen above, the number is continuing to increase, placing greater pressure on the service at a time when the number of staff is reducing due to financial pressures facing all local government services.

Contaminated Land - New developments are continually coming into Knowsley and through the planning procedure we will ensure the land used for the development is suitable for its intended use. Due to budgetary cuts the service will have to change the way it works but needs to ensure a good level of service is still provided.

In line with other public services, the Environment Health service has seen a significant reduction in budgets and staffing and as a result the level of service provided is being reduced in a number of areas. This will see a number of areas of reactive and proactive work which impact on the environment ceasing or response levels reducing and response times increasing (e.g. response to waste, pollution, dog control, housing and fly posting complaints reduce and proactive inspection of permitted processes will reduce), and therefore the impact of this will need to be closely monitored.

The service will continue to work with colleagues across Merseyside and Cheshire to enable us to discuss what works locally and use this learning to improve the service provided. This also allows the service to keep up to date with emerging issues, changes of legislation and campaigns on a local, regional and national level and develop officers and the service to deal with such changes effectively.

The service will also continue to review local intelligence and work in collaboration with partner organisations to share intelligence and resources to target the highest priority areas.

6 EVIDENCE OF WHAT WORKS

6.1 Climate Change

'Under the Weather – improving health, wellbeing and resilience in a changing climate' was produced through a partnership between the Department of Health, the NHS Sustainable Development Unit, Public Health England and the Environment Agency to outline best practice for Health and Wellbeing Boards to integrate climate change adaptation into the local health economy. A summary of how to take advantage of Health and Wellbeing Boards' roles and responsibilities was produced. In addition a guide to how different sectors can take climate change adaptation action was produced.

6.2 Environmental Health

There is statutory requirements and legislation which cover the duties that Councils and partners have to apply to environmental health.

7 KEY CHALLENGES

The key challenges for the environment are;

- The significant reductions in budgets and staffing and managing its impacts on service delivery, particularly around environmental health and the responsiveness of support available.
- Maintaining and improving access and use of green space with reducing funding and competing priorities
- Climate change continues to be a challenge and changing government policy direction and priority given to this area.

Appendix A: Environmental Sustainability Service Green Space Ranger Programme: Key Successes 2015/16

THE GREEN SPACE RANGER PROGRAMME - Q1 & Q2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

