

Cheshire West & Chester Council

How people here are changing

2023 Public Health Annual Report



**Easy
Read**



Cheshire West
and Chester

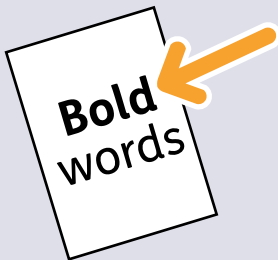
Easy Read



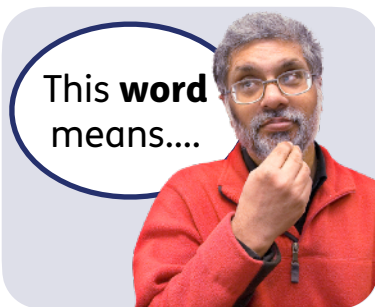
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



This is a report from Professor Helen Bromley.



She is the Director of **Public Health** for Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Public Health is about making decisions that help people to stay healthy.



This report is about:

- What we have done in the last year.



- What we should do in the next year.



You can watch a video about this report here:

[www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/
residents/health-and-social-care/health-
and-wellbeing/public-health](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/health-and-social-care/health-and-wellbeing/public-health)

A message from Professor Helen Bromley



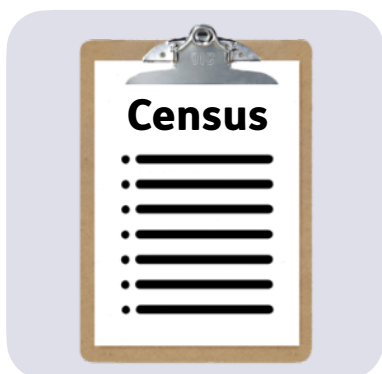
Welcome to my first report as Director of Public Health.



I use information about the health of people who live in Cheshire West and Chester.



This can help us make sure that our services are doing the best they can to keep people healthy.



We have new information from the 2021 **Census**.

The **Census** is when the government collects information about everyone in the country.

The Census tells us that the people in Cheshire West and Chester are:



- Getting older.



- Made up of more different groups of people, like people from different backgrounds and people with disabilities.



We need to make sure that our services meet the needs of these people.



This report will mainly be about how we can support the different groups of people that live in Cheshire West and Chester.



This report will also tell you what we have done in the last year.

What we have done in the last year



The 2022 Public Health Report had some **recommendations** that we needed to work on.

Recommendations are important things that we need to work on.

The council has been:



- Working in lots of ways to help people who do not have enough money to pay for things like food and heating.



- Training staff to help people with mental health issues.

The council has also been:



- Working with other organisations to help people live a healthy life.



- Learning from what happened with Covid-19 to help plan for future emergencies.

Supporting people as they get older

Facts from the Census about people in Cheshire West and Chester include:



- There are more older adults than before. There are 77,700 adults over the age of 65 living here.



We need to make sure that older people can live active and healthy lives for as long as possible.



Since 2018, we have been part of a group to help make local areas better for older people called the **Cheshire West's Age-Friendly Programme**.



The group is made up of people who live here and organisations like the NHS and the University of Chester.



The group helps by looking at the challenges and good things about growing older here.

Our recommendations for the next year:



1. The council should look at Cheshire West's Age-Friendly Programme to check what ways it could be made better.



2. Cheshire West's Age-Friendly planning group should do a survey of older people in 2025.

This will try to find out:



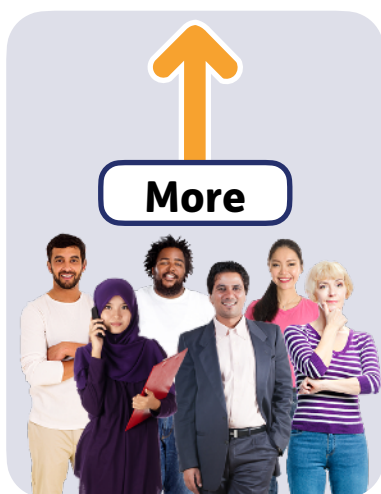
- How older people have been supported since the last survey we did.



- What we need to focus on in the future.

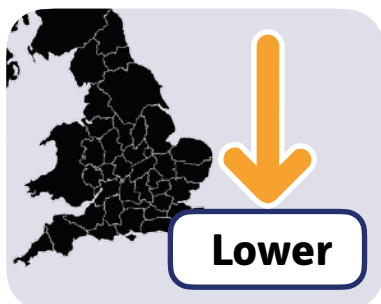
Supporting people from different backgrounds

Facts from the Census about people in Cheshire West and Chester include:



- The number of people from **ethnic minority** groups has gone up from 5% to 9% since 2011.

An **ethnic minority** is a small group of people of the same race, in a place where most other people are a different race.



- This is a lot lower than the whole of England and Wales.



- 11,600 people aged over 3 do not speak English as their first language.

There are some reasons why there are more people from ethnic minorities in Cheshire West and Chester, including:



- People coming to the UK because their country is not safe, like Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria.



- People from European Union countries have chosen to live here.



- More than 2000 people from other countries are studying at the University of Chester.



- People who might have come to live here for work or family reasons.



There will be lots of different needs for different groups of people, depending on what has happened in their lives.



For example, people who have lived through a war will have lots of mental health needs.



We are working to make Cheshire West and Chester a **Place of Sanctuary**.

Place of Sanctuary means that it is a safe place for people who have to leave their country because it is not safe.

Our recommendations for the next year:



1. The council should work with other organisations to make sure we understand the needs of different groups of people.



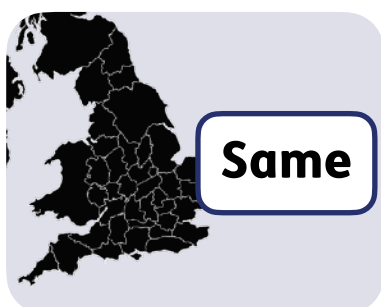
2. The council should work with others to make sure Cheshire West is a safe place for people escaping danger in their countries.

Supporting people with disabilities

Facts from the Census about people in Cheshire West and Chester include:



- Around 65,900 people in Cheshire West and Chester have a disability.



- This is about the same level as the whole of England and Wales.



- 1 in 3 homes have one or more disabled people living there.



- 1 in 10 people give care to a friend or family member without getting paid.



The Census also told us that 1 in 20 people say their health is bad or very bad.



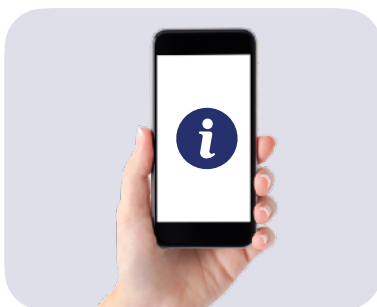
We have celebrated 10 years of the **Corporate Disability Access Forum (CDAF)**.

CDAF helps disabled people and the council to listen to and understand each other.

CDAF has done lots of things to improve the lives of disabled people, like:



- Helped to start **Cheshire Sight Loss Information Line** - to give help and advice to people with sight loss.



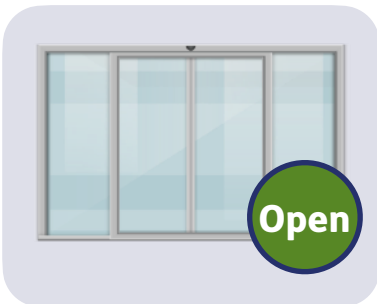
- Created **AccessAble** - an app which tells people about how buildings have been changed to meet their needs, like having lifts or accessible toilets.

CDAF has done other things to improve the lives of disabled people, like:



- Put in more **Changing Places toilets** in our council-run buildings.

Changing Places toilets have enough space and equipment for people who cannot use the toilet on their own.



- Put in push buttons for the doors from New Chester Market car park to the market.



- Started the **itravel service** which lets people book a fully accessible bus service if they live in the countryside.

Our recommendations for the next year:



1. The council should make more changes to Chester City Centre so it is more accessible, like signs and maps.



2. The council should carry on making services more accessible for people who have **sensory impairments**, like being blind or deaf.



3. The council should carry on making sure that disabled people are included in working for the council.



4. There should be training for all staff on the different needs of people with disabilities.

Supporting LGBTQ+ people



LGBTQ+ means lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer + others.

Facts from the Census about people in Cheshire West and Chester include:



- 3 out of 100 people in Cheshire West and Chester describe themselves as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or other.



- 3 out of 1000 people said that their gender is different to the sex they were registered with at birth - this is known as being **transgender**.



The council knows that LGBTQ+ people can have worse health than others.



We are working in different ways to support LGBTQ+ people.



We work with LGBTQ+ organisations to improve how LGBTQ+ people are seen and understood.



We have services for young people that include LGBTQ+ young people.



We give training to staff in Children's Services about LGBTQ+ people.



We have been seen as an organisation that includes LGBTQ+ people by the **Navajo Merseyside and Cheshire LGBTQ+ Charter Mark**.

The **Navajo Merseyside and Cheshire LGBTQ+ Charter Mark** looks at how we are working with our LGBTQ+ staff and providing services to LGBTQ+ people.

Our recommendation for the next year:



1. The council should build on the connections it has with LGBTQ+ organisations to find out what affects LGBTQ+ people.



This will help us to support all people who live in Cheshire West and Chester.

Supporting people who live in different types of homes

Facts from the Census about people in Cheshire West and Chester include:



- The Census is sent to all hostels and shelters for homeless people, but this only covers a small number of people who are homeless.



- Homeless people living in shelters or hostels are twice as likely to be disabled and have bad or very bad health.



- We have a strong Traveller community in Cheshire West and Cheshire, which can sometimes be missed by the Census.



Homeless people and Travellers face some of the worst unfairness in how good their health is compared to other groups of people.



We want to improve this.



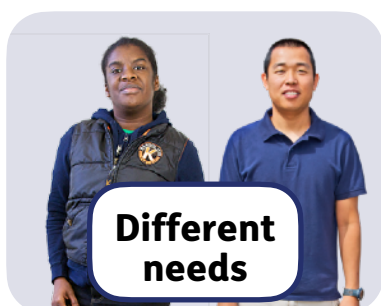
Some families in the Traveller community move around to live in different places for some or all of the year.



We have been working to give these families somewhere to stop where they can use health services.



To support homeless people, we have a group of different organisations that meet twice a week to talk about how to support them.



Homeless people need support that is right for them, and this can be different for each person.



We have increased the number of places for homeless people to stay for a short time until they find somewhere to live.

Our recommendation for the next year for the Traveller community:



1. The council should work on a plan to support better health for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.



The plan should aim to end unfairness against the Traveller community in our services.

Our recommendation for the next year for homeless people:



1. The council should make stronger links between our housing department and health organisations to support homeless people's health.

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1. Source: 2011 and 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.3.0. Further information: [Census 2021 | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)