

[Report 1958] / Medical Officer of Health, Hay U.D.C.

Contributors

Hay (Wales). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1958

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WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
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Hay Urban District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1958

Officials

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall, Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
T.N.Brecon 26. D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector.....G.G.Evans,M.R.S.H.,
P.H.I.A.



Hay Urban District

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1958

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District during the year 1958.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 22/58(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area...370 acres.

The district is a small urban area of 370 acres forming part of the County of Breconshire. It is situated in the northern part of the County and adjoins the counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire.

Population. Census 1931.....1509.
Census 1951.....1452.
Estimated Midsummer 1958.....1430.

The Registrar General's estimated population for each of the last ten years is shown below:

1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958.

1407. 1455. 1433. 1439. 1448. 1450. 1450. 1440. 1420. 1430.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 501, giving an average number of 2.8 persons per house.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate	8.	7.	15.	
Illegitimate	1.	0.	1.	
	9.	7.	16.	11.1

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.4. The district rate was therefore much lower than the national average, and, regrettably definitely lower than the district death rate.

Illegitimacy. The number of registered illegitimate births was one.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
	14	13	27	18.1

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and regrettably, higher than the district birth rate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live&still births</u>
	0	1	1	58.8

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 21.6. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average. This illustrates perfectly the effect that a small number of still births has when the total number of live births is also small.

Total Live and Still Births.....17.

Hay Urban District

Infant Deaths. There were no deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age.

Total mortality rate.....0.
 Legitimate mortality rate.....0.
 Illegitimate mortality rate.....0.
 Neo-natal mortality rate.....0.

Illegitimate Births per cent of total live births.....6.2%

Maternal Deaths. No deaths during the year could be attributed to childbirth, which was very satisfactory.

Maternal mortality rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.
 Respiratory tuberculosis.....Nil.
 Other forms of tuberculosis.....Nil.
 Cancer.....One.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males....14. Females.....13.

Causes. Males. Females.

Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	0.....	1.
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	1.....	0.
Leukaemia.....	1.....	0.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	1.....	3.
Coronary disease.....	2.....	0.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1.....	0.
Other heart disease.....	3.....	1.
Other circulatory disease.....	1.....	0.
Influenza.....	1.....	0.
Pneumonia.....	0.....	1.
Bronchitis.....	0.....	2.
Other defined causes.....	2.....	3.
Accidents, not motor vehicle.....	0.....	2.
Suicide.....	1.....	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Mortuary and Post Mortem Facilities. During the year, with the kind co-operation of the County Welfare Committee, a room at Cockcroft House continued to be used. Post Mortem examinations can also be performed in the same building. Hay R.D.C. and Painscastle R.D.C. also use this building for the same purposes.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. The same arrangements existed during the year as in previous years. Mr. G. G. Evans acted as your Public Health Inspector, and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and the Rural District of Painscastle.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford and Brecon, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed at the Public Health Laboratories at Cardiff and Hereford.

All the milk testing was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Hay Urban District

Nursing and Other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administers the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by Hereford Hospital and Brecon War Memorial Hospital. Merthyr Isolation Hospital received cases of infectious disease.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the district are taken from lowland springs and streams to storage reservoirs and thence through sand gravity filters into the distribution mains; the whole being by gravitation. The water is chlorinated. Owing to the fairly wet year more water was available and the supply was turned off only during the night hours (10pm. - 7am.) from 21st. July to 26th. September.

The two sand filters at the Hay Common Works are used alternatively to allow easier cleaning and a good filtrate has been given to the town, both beds were cleaned twice during the year.

During the year the filters were taken out completely, the under-drainage renewed, the filter media washed and relaid, and more sand added.

The underground reservoir at Llangwathan was cleaned out.

Number of inspections.....18.

Area Water Scheme. The Consulting Civil Engineers prepared final drawings for this scheme including the lines and levels of the proposed mains, sites for the intake works, pumping stations and reservoirs. All drawings and documents were sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for their approval, as well as to the Breconshire and Radnorshire County Councils, and the observations of these Departments is awaited.

Number of inspections by Public Health Inspector.....14.

Drainage. During the year the Council's Engineer carried out surveys for the new sewers and sewage disposal works for the town of Hay and further drawings were prepared.

Number of inspections to drainage work.....13.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse. The work is done by the Council's employees under the supervision of your Public Health Inspector. The refuse is then disposed of by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	20.
Number of complaints investigated.....	20.
Number of premises inspected.....	20.
Number of premises revisited.....	6.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	0.
Number of statutory notices served.....	0.

Hay Urban District

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....21.

There are 8 licensed premises in the area.

In addition there are 2 licensed clubs and 2 off license shops.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....31.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....17.

Number of inspections made.....21.

Number of defects found.....4.

Number of defects remedied.....3.

Camping Sites. A site in Brecon Road is licensed for the use of a caravan.

Tents, Vans, Sheds.

Number of visits.....2.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of investigation or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin are treated with D.D.T. preparations.

Number of premises inspected.....0.

Rodent Control. One full time operator is engaged by the Council. This same operator is also engaged by the Hay Rural District Council. This operator worked under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....281.

Number of premises found infested.....44.

Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....24.

Number of premises treated by occupier.....20.

Number of dead rats picked up.....62.

Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....367.

A total of 18 road gullies were treated during the year and 9 showed evidence of infestation. 18 sewer manholes were also treated and of these 10 were infested.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 4. Housing.

There were no houses erected by the Council during the year but one private house was built.

There are 46 applicants on the Council's Waiting list for new houses; of these 39 are living in houses and 7 in rooms.

16 of the applicants are living in houses which should be considered for demolition.

The applicants could be housed as follows:-

12 in one-bedroom flats or bungalows

21 in two-bedroom houses

12 in three-bedroom houses

1 in four-bedroom house

Hay Urban District

One application was received and approved for a Grant under the Housing Acts to carry out improvements - the work on this house is not completed.

Work was completed and the Grant paid to an owner whose application was approved in the previous year.

Number of housing inspections made.....52.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932(Article 31)

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....108.
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....1.
3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a)the serving of notices requiring the execution of works, or (b)the making of demolition or closing orders.....0.
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works.....0.
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.....0.
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made.....1.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section(2) of section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930.....0.
8. Number of houses demolished.....0.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. Since the 1st. October 1949 local authorities are left with the licensing and control of distributors or dealers.

Number of dealers registered selling T.T.Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.....1.
There is one dairy registered in your district.

Number of samples taken during the year.....7.
Number of samples reported as satisfactory.....7.

There are two producer/retailers delivering milk in your district and these two hold licences to sell designated milk.

The results of these samples were sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at Brecon and Hereford;

Meat. Three slaughterhouses are registered in the district. All condemned meat is collected by a Hereford firm who deals in waste food products.

All other condemned foods are disposed of in the Council's refuse tip, after spraying with fluorescent stain.

Hay Urban DistrictCarcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or part

	Cattle excluding Cows cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
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Number killed(if known)

Number inspected	276	0	0	1695	196	-
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All diseases except
Tuberculosis & Cysticerci

Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	3	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	-	-	51	11	-

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	5.79	-	-	3.00	5.61	-
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Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
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Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
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Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
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Meat Condemned. Cattle.....90 lbs. Other animals.....159 lbs.Other Foods Condemned. Tins....213. Pounds weight.....43.

Number of visits to slaughterhouse.....119.

Other Foods. There are 32 shops dealing in foods in your district and
may be tabulated as follows:-

Greengrocers.....	1.
Grocers.....	11.
Grocer/Bakers.....	1.
Grocer/Baker/Caterers.....	1.
Fishmongers/Greengrocers.....	2.
Confectioner/Tobacconists.....	5.
Restaurants.....	4.
Fish and Chip Shops.....	1.
Butchers.....	4.
Greengrocers/Confectioners.....	1.
Grocer/Caterers.....	1.

Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses)

There are 5 such premises in the district as follows:-

4 butchers preparing pressed, pickled or potted meats and sausages.
1 Baker dealing in bread and cakes.

During the year one firm ceased baking operations, bread and cakes for the retail business being purchased from a wholesale firm.

Number of inspections made.....11.

No special examination of a shop's stock or consignment of food has been necessary, and since there is only one wholesale grocer in the district, the total quantity of food condemned means that such food is not distributed to the shops in the district or to the contiguous areas.

Ice Cream Premises.

There are 13 retailers of ice cream in your district, 11 of these sell pre-packed ice cream, one is a producer/retailer, and one makes his product by using the cold mix.

No samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

Number of inspections made.....19.

Fried Fish Shops. There is one such premises in the district.

Number of inspections made.....14.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Scarlet Fever.....2 cases.

Both of these cases were mild and were nursed at home. The district therefore remained remarkably free from infectious disease. No deaths were due to infectious disease during the year.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....	19.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	1.
Number of cases removed due to death.....	0.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	2.
Number of cases removed as left district.....	0.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	18.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:-

1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958.

0. 6. 0. 3. 6. 0. 3. 5. 4. 6. 1. 1.

Hay Urban District

Diphtheria. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health