

**[Report 1959] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashby-de-la-Zouch Local Board
U.D.C.**

Contributors

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Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1959

G. C. FROST & CO.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council

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Medical Officer of Health :

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.

Surveyor :

THOMAS H. FARRELL, C.R.S.H., D.P.H.H. (Hons.)

Resigned 27.5.59

HAROLD PASS appointed 1.6.59

Public Health Inspector :

F. H. WYNNE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., D.P.H.H. (Hons.)

Appointed 1st August, 1959

Appointed Housing Manager and Cleansing
Superintendent 9th November, 1959

Additional Public Health Inspector :

H. H. FORD, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Resigned 6th April, 1959

Clerk to the Council :

S. E. WILKINSON

Chairman of Council :

C. R. HARVEY, J.P., M.S.M.

Vice-Chairman :

MISS J. A. SMEDLEY, J.P.

Highways Committee Chairman :

A. E. F. SEARANCKE

Housing Committee Chairman :

W. J. C. BOWKER

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council :*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1959.

The population, which appears to be steadily increasing, is now 7,060 compared with 6,980 in 1958.

The birth rate (17.1) is higher than last year (16.9) and higher than that for England and Wales (16.5).

The death rate (14.8) is higher than last year (10.8) and higher than that for England and Wales (11.6).

The chief causes of death are from diseases associated with elderly people.

At the Hospital the new Outpatient Department and modern Operating Theatre were opened. At the same time a plaque was erected to the memory of the late Dr. M. G. Baker.

40 Private houses were completed during the year, making a total of 633 houses completed in the post-war period.

The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 151 and the number of applications received during the year 45.

With respect to general housing conditions the position is rapidly deteriorating, due to the large proportion of old property in the area.

A highly successful conference on Food Hygiene was held during the year at the Town Hall, and attended by many Food Traders in the area and from neighbouring districts.

During the year, 271 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified. 245 Measles, 22 Whooping Cough and 4 Pneumonia. There was one death from pneumonia.

I am pleased to report that the increased number of children receiving primary immunisation against diphtheria is maintained.

One case of Tuberculosis, a Male, notified during the year, but there were no deaths.

The Mass Radiography Unit made an X-Ray survey in September. The attendance was very satisfactory, and I should like to thank the Rotary Club for their assistance in publicising the work, particularly among elderly people.

I should like to express my thanks to the Staff of the Public Health Department of the County and to Dr. Mair and his staff in the Public Health Laboratory at Groby Road, Leicester, for their help and co-operation.

Finally, I must thank Mr. T. H. Farrell, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector and Mr. F. H. Wynne, Public Health Inspector, for their invaluable help during the year, and to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your kindness and courtesy.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Tel. : Coalville 144.

Belvoir Cottage, Coalville.

SECTION A

General Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	6,162 acres
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	7,060
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,386
Rateable Value (at 31/12/59)	£89,816
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£366 5s. 6d.
Comparability factor—Births	0.96
Deaths	1.07

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, the chief industries of the District are :—Agriculture, Biscuit Making, Crisp Manufacture, Dairies, Soap Manufacturing and Glove Manufacturing. A number of workers engaged in Coalmining, Earthenware and Brickmaking are residents in the town. There are also 4 Public Parks and an Open-air Swimming Bath. No industry was noted as having a special injurious effect on the health of the population.

Vital Statistics

(Figures in brackets for England and Wales)

Live Births	126	
Live Birth Rate	17.1	(16.5)
Still Births	3	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	23.3	(20.7)
Total Births	129	
Infant Deaths	3	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	23.8	(22.0)
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate births	24.6	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	0	
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 related live births	15.9	(15.8)
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (first week) per 1,000 related live births	7.9	

Perinatal Mortality, the early neo-natal Mortality combined with the still births per 1,000 Total births	31.0
Percentage of illegitimate live births	3.2%
Maternal Deaths including abortion	0
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births ..	0 (0.38)

LIVE BIRTHS :		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate		53	69	122
Illegitimate		1	3	4
Total		<u>54</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>126</u>

STILL BIRTHS :				
Legitimate		2	1	3
Illegitimate		0	0	0
Total		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Total Births		<u>56</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>129</u>

DEATHS :				
		<u>50</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>98</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 population			<u>14.8</u>	(11.6)

Causes of Death in 1959

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Malignant neoplasm stomach	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ..	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	6	12
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	1	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	8	8	16
Coronary disease, angina	6	5	11
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	7	9	16
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
Influenza	0	2	2
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Other diseases of Respiratory System ..	6	2	8
Bronchitis	1	0	1

Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	0	2
Congenital malformations	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	2	5	7
Suicide	0	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	50	48	98
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death Rate of Infants under 1 week of age :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1	0	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

HOSPITALS

All hospitals are under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of a few private Maternity and Nursing Homes. The County Homes for aged and infirm people are under the County Council. When they become ill, they are the responsibility of the Hospital Board.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL

This is the only hospital in the area, and is under the Leicester No. 2 Hospital Management Committee.

No. of IN-PATIENTS (Medical, Surgical, Gynae) ..	..	467
No. of MATERNITY CASES .. .. .	..	370

No. of BIRTHS	..	..	..	..	..	..	329
No. of Still Born	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
OUT-PATIENTS ATTENDANCES, including casualties and ante-natal	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,283
OPERATIONS	..	..	..	..	..	..	340

The new Out-Patients' Department, with casualty and treatment rooms, and improved facilities for sterilization, together with adequate accommodation for waiting patients and visitors, was opened on June 29th, 1959.

At the same time, an enlarged well-equipped Operating Theatre and adjacent room for the administration of anaesthetics, was brought into use.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Thursday afternoon at the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby. An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville, and the Tuberculosis Clinic at Markfield Sanatorium. The Tuberculosis Clinic is under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The County Council is responsible for all ambulance facilities in the County. Colliery accidents are removed by Ambulances provided by the National Coal Board at Nailstone Colliery and Moira Colliery.

NURSING IN THE HOME

All District Nursing and Midwifery in the home is under the County Council.

HEALTH VISITING

This work is provided, as before, by the County Council, and is ably carried out in the Area. A Diabetic Health Visitor attends the Clinic at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, and visits the patients in their homes on request.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital Groby Road, Leicester

The examinations performed on behalf of the District in the County Laboratory are as follows :—

Throat and Nose Swabs	..	..	..	..	3
Faeces and Urine	..	..	..	..	6
Sputa	..	..	..	..	16
Waters	..	..	..	..	4
Ice Creams	..	..	..	..	6
					—
Total	..	..	..	..	35
					==

Generally, there is co-operation between the local authority and the services provided by the Executive Council and the Hospital Board, and the tendency is towards closer integration.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply.

The water is supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote Joint Water Board and was obtained in bulk from the Derwent Valley. In the late Autumn, however, the River Dove Scheme came into operation and water was then obtained from the River Dove. This water is much harder than the Derwent water and many complaints were received at the year end regarding the hardness of the water and its unpleasant taste.

3 samples of tap water were submitted for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory.

Particulars of Water Supply to Dwelling Houses in the District :—
Internal Mains Water Supply—

No. of Dwelling Houses 2,191. Estimated Population 6,704.

Mains Water from External Standpipes—

No. of Dwelling Houses 60. Estimated Population 250.

Well Water Supply—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 32. Estimated Population, 106.

Apart from a few isolated dwellings, the whole of the urban area is supplied with water from the public mains.

Number of cases in which Pipe supply was substituted for Well Water—0.

Number of Wells closed or cleansed—0.

2 samples of well water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Both were unsatisfactory. Neither water supply is being used for domestic purposes.

Sewage Disposal

Number of cesspools constructed during the year—Nil.

Number of cesspools abolished during the year—Nil.

Total number of cesspools in District on 31st December, 1959—12.

Closet Accommodation

Total number in District on 31st December, 1959 (Estimated)—

(a)	Privies	..	..	..	..	..	2
(b)	Pail Closets	..	..	..	..	..	28
(c)	Water Closets	..	..	..	..	..	2,347

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year :—

(a)	Privies	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b)	Pail Closets	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

No grant is made towards the cost of conversion.

Number of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year : Nil.

Earth closets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools are cleansed by Council workmen, the contents disposed of on arable land and ploughed in.

Pail closets are emptied weekly, and contents disposed of in the same way.

Public Cleansing

Domestic refuse is removed weekly by direct labour over the whole area by one Dennis 10 cubic yard refuse collection vehicle and the contents disposed of to a crude tip.

At the end of the year, negotiations were in progress between British Railways and the Council for the lease of an old railway cutting on the northern side of the district for use as a refuse tip. On completion of negotiations, it is intended to discontinue tipping on the Nottingham Road tip.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

- (a) Total number of complaints received (including complaints from Council House tenants) 1,368
- (b) Total number of premises at which defects or nuisances were dealt with 998
- (c) Total number of defects or nuisances dealt with 1,710

Particulars of Inspections made

	<i>Number of Inspections</i>
Animal Keeping	1
Bakehouses	2
Dairies	1
Drainage Works	62
Dwelling-houses	650
Infectious Diseases Inquiries	1
Food Poisoning Inquiries	Nil
Food Premises	44
Offensive Trades	Nil
Refuse Collection and Disposal	40
Rodent Control	15
Schools	4
Shops	3
Slaughter-houses and Meat Inspection	309
Smoke Control	3
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	Nil

Verminous and Dirty Premises	..	..	2
Water Supplies	..	..	10
Factories and Workplaces	..	..	6
Other Inspections	..	..	94
Total	..	..	1,247

Notices

Preliminary Notices

		<i>Housing</i>	<i>Public Health</i>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1959	..	2	3
Issued during year	.. ..	0	5
Complied with during year	.. ..	2	6
Statutory action necessary	.. ..	0	0
Outstanding 31st December, 1959	..	0	2

Statutory Notices

Statutory Notices, 0. Summary action, Nil.

Shops

Particulars of action taken during the year under the provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950.

	<i>Outstanding 1st Jan., 1959</i>	<i>Defects found</i>	<i>Defects remedied</i>	<i>Outstanding 31st Dec., 1959</i>
Sanitary Conveniences	0	1	1	0
Washing Facilities	0	1	1	0

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No action necessary.

The Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are 3 licensed Pet Shops. 3 inspections were made during the year.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951

No premises in the area.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Inspection of district, including baiting of public sewers. Treatment of infested premises. One part-time Rodent Operator is employed.

Schools

Representations were made to the Education Authority to provide proper washing facilities and to abolish the pan closets at Blackfordby school. At the year end no decision had been received from the Education Authority.

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public

No. in Area :—

(a) Publicly owned	..	..	..	..	1
(b) Privately owned	..	..	..	..	0
No. of Inspections	..	..	..	..	6

The baths were open for approximately 16 weeks during the summer months.

SECTION D

Housing

Houses completed during the year

				<i>Prefab.</i> <i>Permanent</i> <i>Type</i>	<i>Permanent</i> <i>Type</i>
Local Authority	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
By Private Enterprise	..	..		Nil	40

Houses in course of erection at end of year :—

By Local Authority	..	..	..	—	56
By Private Enterprise	..	..		—	3

Total number of Post-War Houses completed :—

By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	380
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	253

Applications for Council Houses

Total number at end of year	..	..	..	..	151
Applications received during the year	..	..		..	45
Number of Council houses in the district prior to the War (1939)	..	..	..	..	162

Housing Act, 1957—Part 4—Overcrowding

Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	..	..	..	..	Nil
Number of families dwelling therein	..	..	..	..	Nil
Number of persons dwelling therein	..	..	..	..	Nil
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	..	..	..	..	Nil
Number of persons concerned in such cases	..	..	..	..	Nil
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	..	..	..	..	Nil

The Housing List was under review at the end of the year.

Housing Summary

Total number of houses occupied in District	..	2,373
Total number of Council houses occupied in District	..	542

Slum Clearance.

A comprehensive survey was made in the autumn of the unfit properties in the district (excluding Blackfordby Ward). In all,

Meat and Other Foods Inspection

No. of Licensed Slaughter Houses in area	..	..	..	2
No. of Animals slaughtered therein	..	..	..	3,395
No. of Animals examined therein	..	..	..	3,395
No. of Inspections of meat at time of slaughter	..	..	..	30%
No. of Knackers' Yards in area	..	..	..	Nil
No. of visits to Knackers' Yards	..	..	..	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ..	447	346	10	1667	925	—
Number inspected	447	346	10	1668	925	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	2	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	156	154	—	40	34	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	34.9	44.4	—	2.4	3.7	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned ..	1	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	40	—	—	—	19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.9	11.5	—	—	2.05	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat Stalls :—

No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
No. of Butcher's Shops in district	..	..	..	..	..	6
No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	4
Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale. No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	40

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

1.	Number of premises inspected	4
	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	44
	Number of informal notices served	2
	Number of informal notices complied with	1
	Number of informal notices outstanding, 31st Dec.	1
	Number of formal notices served	0

A Conference on Food Hygiene was held in the Town Hall on 30th April, 1959. The Conference was addressed by Dr. Betty Hobbs and Dr. F. H. Banfield. A short film was also shown.

The meeting was very well attended and many Food Traders from outside the district and members of other authorities attended also.

Great interest was shown and many questions asked.

A report was submitted to the Council during the year regarding the condition of the retail market. The matter was fully considered by the Council and as a result of the report a local architect was requested to prepare a scheme for the renovation and improvement of the market.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1959

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Final numbers after correction</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Pneumonia	4	0	1
Whooping Cough	22	0	0
Measles	245	0	0
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
	271	0	1
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>

Analysis Under Age Groups according to Registrar General's Return

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>
Under 1 year	7	2
1	16	2
2	18	2
3	20	1
4	32	3
5—9	145	12
10—14	6	0
18—24	0	0
25 and over	1	0
Age unknown	0	0
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
Total	245	22
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>

								<i>Acute Pneumonia</i>
Under 5 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
5—14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
15—44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
45—64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
68 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Age unknown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>4</u>

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Number of children who were immunised during the period
1st January—31st December, 1959

Age at 31/12/59 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1959	1 1958	2 1957	3 1956	4 1955	5 1954	6 1953	7 1952	8 1951	9 1950	Total & over
Primary Immunisation	12	57	19	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	94
Booster Dose	-	-	-	-	21	28	7	1	-	3	60

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Tuberculosis Register for the year 1959

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
No. of cases on the Register at the commencement of year	16	9	2	1	28
No. of cases notified during the year	1	0	0	0	1
No. of cases added other than by formal notification ..	0	0	0	0	0
No. of cases removed from the Register	3	2	0	0	5
No. of cases remaining on the Register at end of year	14	7	2	1	24

Causes of Removal

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Left District	2	2	0	0	4
Cured	1	0	0	0	1
Total	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>

There is free co-operation between the Local Authority and the Chest Physician, and every assistance is given in the ascertainment of contacts, rehousing and employment. A special clinic for contacts has been working very satisfactorily, and general practitioners have availed themselves fully of X-ray facilities.

X-ray Survey in September, 1959

The Mass Radiography Unit attended in September and it is gratifying to report that of the 1907 persons who attended only one active case of tuberculosis requiring close supervision was discovered. Three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis requiring occasional supervision were also discovered. This is about half the national average. In addition two cases of Carcinoma were discovered, both male. The cases of tuberculosis were 2 males and 2 females.

In addition to this there were 4 cases of bronchitis, 2 male and 2 female, 12 cardiac cases, 4 male and 8 female and 4 cases of pneumoconiosis, all male.

The number attending was very satisfactory and in order to get as many of the older age group to attend, quite a lot of publicity was given prior to the Unit coming, by advising the industries and through the Health Visitor, but more particularly through the efforts of the local Rotary Club in helping to publicise the work among the older age groups. The Council are very grateful to the Rotary for their assistance.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Resumé of Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1959, previously sent to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service Headquarters, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	2	0
Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	4	1
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	3	0	0
Total ..	40	6	1

2.—Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—		
(a) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1
(b) Not separate for sexes ..	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	0	0
	0	0
Total	1	1

Part VIII of the Act Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of Outworkers in August List required by Sec. 110</i>
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets ..	1



