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**Urban District Council
of
Newbiggin - by - the - Sea**



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1956.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1956.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1956.

The vital statistics remain quite satisfactory. The birth rate declined from 19.06 in 1955 to 17.70 per 1,000 of the population, in 1956 but is still higher than the corresponding figure of 15.7 for the country as a whole. The still-birth rate at 5.56 per 1,000 live births is exceptionally low; the national figure being 23.0. The crude death rate, 9.89 per 1,000 of the population is very slightly lower than in the previous year, but, owing to an increase in the comparability factor, the standard death rate rose to 12.46 in 1956, whereas in 1955 it was 11.63 per 1,000. The total death rate in England and Wales in 1956 was 11.7 per 1,000.

The infantile mortality rate declined from 31.25 per 1,000 related live births, in 1955 to 22.35 in 1956, and the national figure was 23.8. Only 4 children died in the first year of life and three of these died within the first month.

Notifiable infectious diseases were few in number and there was no outbreak requiring mention.

Notified cases of respiratory tuberculosis increased from 4 to 7 but no case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified, compared with 2 in the previous year.

No death attributed to tuberculosis, occurred.

The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms was 15, two fewer than in 1955 and there was no death attributed to Cancer of the lung.

Although the report shows no houses demolished during the year, a beginning was made with the slum clearance programme, the first houses to be dealt with being 8 in Brewery Yard. The necessary preliminary steps were taken and demolition orders made. These will be put into effect in 1957.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Councillors for the interest they have taken in the work of the department and for the consideration they have shown to me, personally. I must also express my appreciation of the work of the Public Health Inspector and of the help I have received from all departments of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR,
M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA

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SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Area and boundaries of the Urban District remain unchanged.

The chief industry is coal-mining which is carried out at two pits, one at Newbiggin, itself and one at North Seaton Colliery. Some of the population are engaged in agriculture and a small number in inshore fishing.

Newbiggin attracts considerable numbers of visitors in the summer months and the caravan site, now provided with greatly improved amenities in the way of water supply, washing facilities, sanitary accommodation and regular scavenging service, is proving very popular and is an asset to the town.

The sandy beach is ideal for children and the golf course, tennis courts and bowling green provide recreation for older holiday-makers.

Area in Acres	1,841
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1956	10,010
Rateable Value	£70,721
One Penny Rate produces	£268
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956)	2,997

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	171	90	81
Illegitimate	8	4	4
	179	94	85

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	17.88
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 0.99)	17.70

Still Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	1	1	—
Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births			5.56
Rate per 1,000 of the total population			0.10

DEATHS

	Total	Male	Female
	99	49	50
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			9.89
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.26)			12.46
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's short list):			
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	22.35
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	17.56
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	1	2

The Registrar-General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1956.

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	11
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	6	5
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2
20. Other Heart Diseases	15	12
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	—
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	1
24. Bronchitis	3	—
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	1	1
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3	5
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
34. All other Accidents	1	2
35. Suicide	1	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	<hr/> 49	<hr/> 50

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 3

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH AT NEWBIGGIN

	Total No.	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	43	43.43
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	17	17.17
Malignant Neoplasms	15	15.15
	<u>75</u>	<u>75.75</u>

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1956.

Cause of Death	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 mths	4 - 6 mths	7 - 9 mths	10 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Abnormality	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Maternal Toxaemia	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	1	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	4

The total number of infant deaths was 4, giving a death rate of 22.35 per 1,000 live births, compared with 6 deaths and a rate of 31.25 in 1955. Neonatal deaths accounted for three-quarters of the total.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 23.8 per 1,000 related live births.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Service in the Laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which the facilities have been utilised is shown below.

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	3	12
General Practitioner	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms	—	1
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms	13	39
Medical Officer of Health	Urine for Pathogenic Organisms	—	4
General Practitioner	Blood for Widal	—	1

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service in Newbiggin is provided by the Northumberland County Council with ambulances stationed at Ashington. At North Seaton Colliery the Miners' Welfare Committee continues to run its own ambulance service, but any North Seaton resident not entitled to this service can obtain the use of a County Council ambulance when necessary.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is administered and provided by the Northumberland County Council, and nurses are stationed as follows:

Newbiggin	3
North Seaton	1

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centre at Jubilee Terrace, Newbiggin and at 18, High Double Row, North Seaton Colliery.

SECTION C

Water.

Water is supplied by Tynemouth Corporation to the whole of the District with the exception of North Seaton Village, where 18 houses and one farm are supplied by water from North Seaton Colliery.

The water is chlorinated and is of an excellent standard of purity. The supply is adequate and averages approximately 24.5 gallons per head per day.

2,140 houses, or 71% of the total occupied houses, have a fixed bath, and only 22 houses are without an internal water supply.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

While the sewerage of the area is normally satisfactory, trouble is still caused by flooding of the low-lying area during spells of heavy rainfall, particularly when these coincide with high tides.

The large drain which discharges on to the beach at Bridge Street still gives cause for concern, and will have to be watched carefully. It is hoped that when the sewage scheme for Woodhorn Village is put into operation the danger will be greatly reduced.

Public Conveniences.

There are four, situated at Prospect Place, Bridge Street, Milburn Park and the Promenade. They are periodically inspected, well maintained, and with the exception of the one at Prospect Place are adequate.

Public Cleansing.

A regular twice-weekly collection of household refuse is maintained, and no complaints were received during the year.

The streets, promenade and foreshore under the control of the Council are maintained in a clean condition. A certain amount of offensive matter in the form of fish-heads and mussel shells was deposited on the beach, and it will be necessary to take more stringent measures if this nuisance is to be prevented.

Rivers and Streams.

Two small streams run close to the housing estates of Spital and Woodlea. That at Spital periodically overflows on to lowlying land, while the other carries sewage from Woodhorn Village. They are both offensive during hot weather, both from smells and from mosquitoes and midges which breed in and around them. It will be necessary for the Council to take action in the near future to deal with these problems.

Shops and Food Premises.

A strict control is maintained over these, and it is very gratifying to see the high standard maintained in the vast majority of premises. In particular the multiple shops and the Co-operative Society have carried out all my requirements without question, and have even asked what I would suggest to make their food rooms more hygienic.

The problem is now resolving itself into one of education. Education of the general public to note unhygienic practices and to report them, and education of the food handlers themselves. A number of times it was observed that even when the most up-to-date equipment was provided, its value was nullified by the assistant handling food such as cooked meat with the bare hands, immediately after having handled money, root vegetables, and even in one case after having patted and fondled a dog.

Eradication of Vermin.

It is gratifying to report that not a single complaint was received during the year of infestation by bed-bugs.

Spraying of rooms for cockroaches, which is carried out free of charge, was done in three cases.

Schools.

The six schools in the area have main water supplies and water-closets. They and the associated school canteens were visited on several occasions during the year and were found to be in excellent condition.

Rodent Control.

The work of eradication of rodents continues throughout the area. The following table gives a summary of the activities during the year:

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Business	Agricultural
No. of Properties	10	2982	305	17
No. of Inspections as a result of:				
Complaint	—	15	4	—
Survey under the Act	10	84	93	4
Otherwise	—	159	174	12
No. of infestations	2	24	14	1
No. of properties treated by				
Local Authority	2	24	14	1

Camping Sites.

Newbiggin Moor is now an excellent caravan site. Water supplies, soakaways and toilet and washing facilities are provided and have proved adequate. The type of caravan has improved immensely, and each van is inspected and approved before being used for letting.

The only trouble now is that caused by straying horses which graze on the moor. Apart from the damage to vans and the nuisance from refuse bins being tipped over, there is the actual physical danger to small children. The site operator is trying to reach an agreement with the Freeholders regarding either the fencing of the site (with access gates for the public) or the purchase of the grazing rights.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1938.

Inspections were made of the 22 factories in the area. The following tables give details of the inspections made during the year and the defects found:

1. Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities ...	10	14	—	—
(ii) Other Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	11	21	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	4	—	—
Total	22	39	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—	—

SECTION D

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1956.

New houses completed during the year:

By Local Authority	40
By other Bodies or Persons	2

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	—
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	—
3. Houses closed, not demolished	—
4. Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	—

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts:

1. By informal action	38
2. By owners, following statutory notice	—
3. By Local Authority in default of owners	—
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	—
5. Houses in Clearance Areas patched for temporary accommodation	—

Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949.

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	23
2. Applications rejected	—
3. Applications approved	23
4. Approximate average grant per house	£114. 13. 0.
5. Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	196

Local Authority Houses.

1. Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1083
2. Number of temporary dwellings included in the above:	
(a) Prefabs	—
(b) Huts, etc.	21
3. Number of outstanding applications for Council Houses on list at the end of year ...	964

	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	No. of Informal notices served.	Defects remedied by Informal Action.	No. of Statutory Notices Served.	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal Proceedings.
HOUSING						
Structural Defects	24	18	22	—	—	—
Defective Food Store	3	2	3	—	—	—
Dampness	32	27	30	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY						
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	—	—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE						
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective	36	36	36	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES						
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective	24	21	24	—	—	—
GENERAL						
Food Premises	14	14	14	—	—	—
Dairies	1	1	1	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	2	1	2	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	15	2	15	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	3	3	3	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Bins	41	41	41	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	1	1	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	196	169	192	—	—	—

The following table gives a summary of the work effected:

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences			
Privy Ashpits and Privies abolished	—	—	—
Privy Ashpits and Privies repaired	—	—	—
Pail closets abolished	—	—	—
Water closets provided	3	—	3
Sanitary bins provided	3	—	3
Sanitary bins renewed	38	—	38
Drainage			
New drains constructed	76	—	76
Drains repaired and reconstructed	36	—	36
Additional gullies provided	2	—	2
Old gullies replaced	4	—	4
Scullery sinks provided	—	—	—
Scullery waste pipes repaired	—	—	—
Scullery waste pipes trapped	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed	7	—	7

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

Number of Registered Dairies	3
Number of Registered Distributors	12

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughtering is carried out at two abattoirs at Newbiggin. The total animals killed during the year was as follows:

Bovines—674. Calves—15. Sheep and Lambs—1921. Pigs—504.

Condemnations during the year were: 12 Bovine Lungs, 3 Bovine Heads and Tongues and 4 Pig Heads for Tuberculosis; 3 Bovine Lungs and 5 Pig Plucks for Pneumonia, and 73 lbs. Beef for bruising.

Unsound Food.

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption.

Canned Goods (including Meat, Fruit, Milk and Vegetables)	124 tins
Sausage	52 lbs.
Bacon	23 lbs.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

Age Groups	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Resp.		Non-Resp.			Resp.		Non-Resp.		
	M	F	M	F	Total	M	F	M	F	Total
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 24 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 44 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 54 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 years	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
65 - 74 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 years and over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	2	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—

Seven new cases of tuberculosis were notified in 1956, an increase of 3 on the number for the previous year. No case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified and no death was attributed to any form of the disease.

Case Rate of notified Tuberculosis	0.699 per 1,000 (0.602)
Case Rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.699 per 1,000 (0.401)
Case Rate of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	Nil (0.201)
Death Rate from Tuberculosis	Nil (0.100)

The figures in brackets are the corresponding rates for 1955.

Death Rate in England and Wales in 1956	0.121 per 1,000
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MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

The following table shows the deaths, in age groups, resulting from Malignant Neoplasms of different sites:

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1956.

Site	MALES							FEMALES						
	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75+	Total	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75+	Total
Tongue	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mouth	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Stomach	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Colon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Bladder	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lymphatic & Haemato- poietic Tissues	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	1	—	—	1	2	1	5	—	2	2	1	4	1	10

In 1956 the number of males dying from this cause was 5 and the number of females 10. The corresponding figures for 1955 were 13 and 4 respectively.

Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Newbiggin—Nil.

Death Rate in England and Wales—0.407 per 1,000 population.

Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin—1.499 per 1,000 population.

Death Rate in England and Wales—1.668 per 1,000 population.

Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites.

Total death rate in Newbiggin—1.499 per 1,000 population.

Total death rate in England and Wales—2.075 per 1,000 population.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

**TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
UNDER AGE GROUPS.**

Disease	Age unknown	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	65—74 years	75 years & over	Total	Deaths	Admitted to Hospital
Dysentery	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	4	12	8	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	—	—

Notifications of infectious disease were very few in 1956 and there was no outbreak of note.

Whooping Cough.

There were 31 cases of Whooping Cough notified. No deaths were attributed to this disease. During 1956, 174 children received prophylactic injections against Whooping Cough.

Diphtheria.

This disease has not been seen in Newbiggin since 1950 and it has caused no deaths during the past 9 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 171 pre-school and 9 school children completed a course of primary immunisation and 112 pre-school and 114 school children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31st December 1956 it was estimated that the immunity indices, i.e. the percentage of children who had received prophylactic treatment during the previous five years, were as follows:

- 36.07 of children under 1 year.
- 85.48 of children aged 1 to 4 years.
- 74.23 of children aged 5 to 14 years.
- 74.69 of all children under the age of 15 years.

These figures are very satisfactory and particularly so in the younger age groups where protection is so very important. In addition to the above, 555 children had completed a course of treatment at some time prior to 1952.

