

[Report 1959] / Medical Officer of Health, Street U.D.C.

Contributors

Street (Somerset, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1959

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/qysdck7j>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

CONTENTS

STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1959



M.J.Forth, M.B.
Medical Officer of Health,
Culross,
High Street,
STREET.
Telephone - Street 344

L.C.Corlett,
Public Health Inspector.

MAY, 1960.

Ub

CONTENTS

Ambulance Service	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cemetery	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Clean Air Act	.	...	...	...	...	...	7
Death, Causes of	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
General Practitioner Service	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Home Help Service	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Housing	.	...	...	...	...	...	6
Immunisation	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infant Welfare.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infectious Diseases	,	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maternity Care	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Mortuary	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nursing	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Old People's Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Parks	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Swimming Pool..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Vaccination, Smallpox and Polio	.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Vital Statistics	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water	..	...	...	...	...	...	4

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Area

The area of the Urban District of Street is 3,600 acres.

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of 1959 was 6,420.

Occupations

The principal occupations are shoemaking, the manufacture of leatherboard and animal feeding stuffs and agriculture.

Vital Statistics

Live Births (53 male, 43 female)	96
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	2.08
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	14.09
Still-births	2
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births	20.4
Total live and still-births	98
Infant deaths	0
Neo Natal mortality - number of deaths	0
Comparability Factor Deaths	0.98
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	9.34
Comparability Factor Births	0.96

Causes of Death

<u>Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	34	26	60
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory		1	1
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases		1	1
10 Malignant Neoplasm stomach	1		1
11 " " of lung, bronchus	3		3
12 " " " breast		2	2
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	3	4
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	8	11
18 Coronary disease, angina	12	4	16
19 Hypertension with heart disease	3		3
20 Other heart disease	4	2	6
21 Other circulatory disease	1		1
24 Bronchitis	2	1	3
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	3	7
35 Suicide		1	1

Notification of Infectious Diseases

Measles	170
Scarlet Fever	2
An epidemic of measles occurred in January	

Cases of Tuberculosis resident in Street

Respiratory	17
Non-respiratory	1
Deaths during year	1

Diphtheria Immunisation

Primary	95
" under 1 year	78
Reinforcing	5

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	65
Age 1 - 2	...	...	...	...	...	17
Total	...	...	...	...	...	82

Vaccination

Primary	...	...	...	...	...	63
Re-Vaccination	...	...	...	...	...	12
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	50

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Children born 1943-59	.	...	...	...	...	684
Young persons 1933-42	.	...	...	...	...	425
Expectant mothers	...	...	...	...	...	34
Others	...	...	...	...	...	2
Reinforcing injections	...	...	...	...	...	1,302

Although the figures for immunisation and vaccination are better than in previous years, they could still be improved upon.

About 90% of children under 17 have been vaccinated against poliomyelitis and about 40% of young people under 27.

The figures for Smallpox vaccination could be raised if the County Health Department would co-operate by offering it at the Infant Welfare centre.

District Nursing

Since May there has been an additional nurse in the district making a total of four; the area covered includes Street, Walton, Meare, Westhay, Sharpam, Compton Dundon and Littleton.

The District Nurses have a system for days and week-ends off duty which works very well and ensures them a reasonable number of undisturbed nights

(1) Maternity Care

Home Confinements attended	...	...	...	...	56
Doctors ante-natal clinics attended	...	...	...	...	98
Ante-natal visits at home	...	...	...	...	1,226
Maternity Nursing Visits	...	...	...	...	1,113
Maternal complication visits	...	...	...	...	74

(2) Health Visiting

Children aged 0 - 1 yr	-	851
" " 1 - 2 "	-	379
" " 2 - 5 "	-	698

(3) Infant Welfare Clinic

First attendances of children under 1 yr old	-	96
Children born in 1959 attending	-	80
" " " 1958 "	-	76
" " " 1957-54 "	-	96
Total attendances by children under 1 year	-	1,163
" " " " 1 - 2 years	-	374
" " " " 2 - 5 "	-	364
Mothers attending during year	-	184
Sessions held - 47		
" " with doctor - 20		
Children examined by doctor - 80		
Medical consultations - 107		

The Clinic was closed for four weeks in January owing to an epidemic of measles.

The Clinic now offers the combined diphtheria, whooping-cough and tetanus injections and also poliomyelitis vaccination for infants. It is still, however, preferable for the General Practitioners to vaccinate and immunise their own patients.

(4) School Medical Inspections

Attendances at School Medical Inspections	-	0
" " Polio vaccination sessions	-	23
" " B.C.G. (T.B.) Vaccination	-	5
Follow-up visits	-	6
School Hygiene inspections	-	1

(5) General Nursing Visits - 5,096

In addition to the above work, a course of six talks to pupils at Strode School have been given on Mothercraft and Ante Natal Clinics have been attended at Glastonbury where a physiotherapist teaches exercises and the nurses give short talks on the preparation and arrangements for the new baby.

Talks on Home Nursing and Child Welfare have also been given to the Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Home Help Service

52 cases were attended during the year including 31 over 65 years of age - 10 maternity cases.

A local organiser is being appointed at Street.

Mass Radiography Service

The unit visited Street in July and C. and J. Clark Ltd. in January and November.

In two of the visits 992 persons were X-rayed and three cases of active tuberculosis were discovered. However, the latter were not local residents and it is not known how many of the 992 reside in Street.

Ambulance Service (St. John)

A new headquarters and garage has been opened in Glastonbury and this should give an even better service than before.

General Practitioner Service

During the year the Urban District Council asked the Regional Hospital Board for X-ray facilities and a more comprehensive out-patient scheme at Butleigh Hospital, as this would give the community prompter and more efficient medical care and save much travelling time to Bridgwater and Taunton.

Old People's Welfare Committee

The activities of this committee have followed the same lines as in previous years. The Social Club, which meets every Thursday, is about 147 strong and is flourishing. Bring and Buy Sales, Whist Drives and seaside outings were held.

Meals on wheels are delivered on Tuesdays - about 11, and Thursdays - about 19. This service is invaluable and under no circumstances should it be curtailed.

55 people are visited at home and Christmas parcels delivered to all housebound and sick members of the Social Club.

A Chiropodist visits old people who need such care and this service is to be embodied in the County Health Service

Part III Accommodation. There is always a long wait for those needing this type of accommodation and the County Council should be asked to provide more accommodation of this kind in or near to Street.

Factories

Routine inspection of factories have been made during the year and special attention has been given to fire precaution and lavatory accommodation. Canteens have been inspected and the improvements suggested are being carried out.

Food Hygiene

Bakehouses, Canteens, butchers shops, fish shops and restaurants and hotel kitchens were visited during the year and were on the whole satisfactory. Improvements in structure and food handling were suggested and have been carried out.

Food hygiene booklets were sent to all butchers and notices relating to the control of dogs sent to all food shops.

Mortuary

The Mortuary is small and cramped and the visiting pathologist thinks that its facilities are so poor that he is loathe to continue using it. A new one is being built by a local firm of undertakers.

The number of cases admitted during the year were:-

From within the Urban District 4
From without the Urban District 13

Parks

The parks at Merriman Gardens, Woods Batch, Wraxhill, Victoria Field and Bowling Green are popular and well kept. The Tannery field has been bought during the year. Owing to the rapid housing development in the Brookleigh/Stonehill area a recreation ground and park is urgently needed for the children in this area. The Bovermoor Road area is very badly served in this respect.

Woods Batch recreation ground has a football and hockey pitch provided and the County Mixed School make full use of these facilities during term time.

Further clearance work was undertaken on the Ivythorn Hill and this area becomes increasingly more popular with the public.

Water Supply

The year was generally a difficult one in relation to water supply. Wellhead ran dry in early August and Honeyhurst and Millyard were in continuous use from that time until mid-November. Nevertheless, the supply was maintained during the summer drought period without restriction although when we had a mechanical breakdown on the pumps at Honeyhurst an appeal was made to the public to economise on consumption to enable the reservoir levels to be regained. In addition to maintaining our own supplies, we continued to meet an increasing demand from the adjoining rural districts which now form part of the Bristol Waterworks area of supply, namely, the Parishes of Butleigh, Wookey, Meare, Walton and the Bleadney, Coxley and Wookey areas.

Piped supplies - results of samples taken for analysis:-

RAW WATER				TREATED AFTER GOING INTO SUPPLY			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
-	-	-	-	22	2	3	-

Action respecting any form of contamination:- Unsatisfactory samples taken when chlorination was not in full use. Follow-up samples satisfactory.

Water Supplies from mains:-

	DIRECT TO THE HOUSES			BY MEANS OF STANDPIPES		
	Public	Water Companies	Private	Public	Water Companies	Private
(a) Number of dwellinghouses				6		
Population	6,300			estimated figures 20		

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water - 2
 Number of wells closed - 1

A new submersible Beresford Pump was provided during the year in Millyard Bore.

Cemetery

The number of burials was 49 (53 in 1958)

Sewage Disposal

The works of partial reconstruction of the sewage works were continued during the year. Works completed consisted of new sedimentation tank & detritus tank, pumping sumps and installation of pumps and the sections were brought into use late in the year.

Public Cleansing

Regular weekly collection of house refuse is carried out and this refuse and trade refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

It is desirable that householders should be relieved of the unpleasant unhygienic task of carrying their dustbins to the roadside for emptying and the whole operation carried out by the dustmen. The prospect of rows of dustbins by the pavement is unsightly especially when some lids are ill-fitting and children and animals investigate the contents. This service is provided by progressive Councils in many other areas which do not have higher rates than this district - it should be provided here.

Greenbank Swimming Pool

This swimming pool enjoyed a record year and provided a much enjoyed facility to the general public. The attendance during the season being 113,247 persons. The pool is very well conducted and is a very considerable asset to the district.

Housing

The emphasis in the Council's building programme during the year has been the erection of Old People's Bungalows and the erection of the larger type semi-detached houses for economical rental. The bungalows are proving an attractive proposition to the elderly and there is now a considerable waiting list for these dwellings.

Plans have been prepared for the erection of two blocks of flatlets for letting at economic rents and work will shortly commence on the erection of the first block of these flatlets.

New sites are being sought after for the continuation of the Council's Housing Programme.

Encouragement should be given to property owners to bring sub-standard properties up to a reasonable standard by the provision of bathrooms etc. and more publicity given to the ways in which the Council can help finance this.

Many older Council houses do not have separate bathrooms and these facilities are desirable; the possibility of providing these facilities should be investigated.

It is thought that the Council houses with one living room may provide social problems when the tenants' children become teenagers and need privacy. It may be advisable that, in future, houses should have at least two sitting-rooms downstairs.

About thirty Old People's Bungalows are still needed to meet present requirements and if these could be completed at an early date it would be possible to free some Council houses at present occupied by single persons. As the building of Council houses slows up it may be essential to move tenants to make the best possible use of existing accommodation.

Total number of permanent dwellings in District 2081

Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority 627

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one
	For Slum Clearance	For all purposes	For Slum Clearance	For other purposes		
Local Authority	2	21		15		
Private Enterprise		75		36		

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1959		Housing Programme for 1960	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	For Slum Clearance	For all purposes
472	229		30

Number of houses found overcrowded - estimated 10

Houses Required:-

- (i) To replace houses scheduled for demolition - 10
- (ii) To abate overcrowding - 10
- (iii) For other purposes - 100

Improvement Grants

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during year:

(1) Received		(2) Approved	
Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
2	2	2	2

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year - 1

Average cost per dwelling approved during year

£313

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority

£627

Food

Milk

Number of Registered Distributors	-	4
Number of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms)	-	6
Number of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk	-	4
Number of supplementary licences issued to distributors whose dairy is outside the area		1

Samples for biological and Designated Milk examination are taken by the County Council.

Ice Cream

Number of premises registered for:-

Manufacture and retail	-	1
Retail only	-	22

Samples are taken by the Somerset County Council.

Slaughterhouses

Slaughtering continued during the year in the two Slaughterhouses in the district and upwards to 300 visits have been made during the year. All animals slaughtered have been inspected and the details are given in the attached detailed statement.

Clean Air Act

All new properties in the district will comply with the conditions laid down in the Act.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year:-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	214	-	2	610	669	-
Number inspected	214	-	2	610	669	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	-	Nil	1	1	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	28	-	-	17	15	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13.08%		Nil	2.8%	2.4%	
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1		Nil	Nil	4	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.5%		-	-	0.6%	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3					
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3					
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil					
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-</u>						
(a) Tuberculosis	20				48	68
(b) Cysticercosis submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4,256					4,256
(c) Other	344			190	150	684
Total (in lbs.) condemned	4,620			190	198	5,008

Tinned Meat
Other foods tinned

47
122

Total 5,117

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	120	4 verbal 2 written	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	275	6 verbal 2 written	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)...				
Total ...	27	395	14	Nil
Outworkers	<u>156</u>			
Total	183			

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found . .

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Generally conditions found were satisfactory.				
Overcrowding (S.2) . . .	Attention was drawn as necessary to small points.				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) . . .	Further inspections made in relation to means of escape in case of fires.				
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)					

Number of cases in which defects were found in Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-
No. found - 10 No. remedied - 10.

Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c):-

Nature of work - Wearing apparel. - 156 workers

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS)

Number of Inspections with Orders Issued	Number of Inspections		Number of Orders Issued	Total Orders Issued	Cases in which DEFECTS were found
	(1)	(2)			
120	120	120	120	120	(1) Reported in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are to be enforced by local authorities
275	275	275	275	275	(II) Reported not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority
395	395	395	395	395	(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers)
					Total ...
					Outworkers
					Total

Number of cases in which defects were found	Number of cases in which defects were found			Total Number of cases in which defects were found	Cases in which DEFECTS were found
	By H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector	Found Reported		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(1)
					(2)
					(3)
					(4)
					(5)

Number of cases in which defects were found in Sanitary Ordinances (S.O.):-
 No. found - 10
 No. reported - 10

Number of out-workers in respect of which Section 10 (1) (a) :-
 No. found - 10
 No. reported - 10

Number of work - hearing apparatus - 100 cases