

[Report 1958] / Medical Officer of Health, Weardale R.D.C. (Stanhope, Derwent, Wolsingham, and St John's Districts).

Contributors

Weardale (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1958

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cmff7rv3>

License and attribution

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

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. 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>

LIBRARY



WEARDALE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1958



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health - G. A. MACGREGOR, M.D.,D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector -- R. G. SUDDICK, Cert.,R.S.I.Lond.

WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1958

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is very little upon which to comment in presenting the Annual Report for 1958.

The death rate continues to exceed the birth rate, as it has done since 1953. In 1958 the corresponding rates for England and Wales showed an excess of the latter over the former (16.4 and 11.7 respectively). Diseases of the heart and blood vessels accounted for more than half the deaths but this was to be expected in an ageing population.

The incidence of infectious diseases was low and there were no cases of Diphtheria, Dysentery or Poliomyelitis. The Health Authorities and the General Practitioners offer protective immunisation, e.g. Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria, and although the response to Poliomyelitis immunisation has been fairly satisfactory, that against Diphtheria could be much better.

There are still a number of sub-standard houses scattered throughout your district requiring attention.

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid year)	8,890
Area (In Acres)	99,652
Number of Inhabited Houses (Mid 1958)	3,117
Rateable Value (Mid 1958)	£92,550
Product of Penny Rate	£327. 8s. 6d

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	115	57	58
Illegitimate	6	3	3
	<u>121</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>61</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...			13.61
General Birth Rate (England and Wales) (Mid 1958) ...			16.4

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Legitimate	2	2	-	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	
Rate per 1,000 (live and still)	13.83

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
	127	77	50	
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...				14.28
Death Rate (England and Wales)	11.7

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	-
Infantile Mortality Rate (England Wales)	22.5
Deaths from Cancer	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR PAST 6 YEARS

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate Under 1 year	Birth Rate
1953	13.83	-	11.08
1954	16.37	18.10	12.08
1955	14.14	52.63	10.50
1956	13.79	9.17	12.12
1957	15.00	7.93	14.11
1958	14.28	-	13.61

CAUSES OF DEATHS - Total Number 127

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and Parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	4
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	16	12
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	17	5
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1
20. Other Heart Diseases	6	7
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	8	2
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	4	3
24. Bronchitis	7	2
25. Other diseases of Respiratory System	-	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	1	-
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	1	9
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-
34. All Other Accidents	5	-
35. Suicide	-	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
	77	50

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Dysentery	-	-	-
Measles	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	10	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Tuberculosis	5	2	1

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past 6 years:

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1953	-	-	21	-
1954	-	-	8	-
1955	-	-	2	-
1956	-	-	2	-
1957	-	-	5	-
1958	-	-	1	-

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1958

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year

Disease	Under 1 yr	1 - 2 yrs	3 - 4 yrs	5 - 9 yrs	10 - 14 yrs	15 - 24 yrs	25 - 44 yrs	45 - 64 yrs	65 and Over	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	1	-	2	6	-	-	1	-	-	10
Measles	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 64	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS

Year	NEW CASES						DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1953	3	5	8	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1954	1	1	2	2	1	3	-	1	1	-	-	-
1955	4	1	5	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1956	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1957	4	1	5	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
1958	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF INTEREST

Year	Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	Number of Inhabited Houses	Number of Houses built		Birth Rate (1,000 pop)		Death Rate (1,000 pop)		Percentage Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System to Total Deaths
			Government	Private	W.R.D.C.	England & Wales	W.R.D.C.	England & Wales	
1954	9,100	3,088	30	5	12.08	15.2	16.31	11.3	51.0
1955	9,050	3,091	16	3	10.5	15.0	14.14	11.7	57.0
1956	8,990	3,102	46	7	12.12	15.7	13.79	11.7	60.5
1957	8,930	3,115	18	4	14.11	16.1	15.0	11.5	62.7
1958	8,890	3,117	-	-	13.61	16.4	14.23	11.7	59.0

WATER SUPPLY

The water supplies in the Council's area of supply were well maintained - the unsettled weather of the summer ensured the supplies from the springs of the various localities and no shortage arose.

Samples of water from each of the separate systems were taken and sent for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

Samples of water were also taken of eight private supplies to farms in connection with grants under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and these were found to be suitable for human consumption.

Improvements to the supply to Frosterley, by the addition of further springs on Thornhope Moor were carried out. The work in connecting the supply from Crawleyside to Ashcroft, Stanhope was also completed.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

No major improvements to the various sewage works in the district were carried out.

With regard to the proposed sewerage schemes at Bridge End, Frosterley, Eastgate and Rookhope, further consultations were carried out with the Engineer. Negotiations for the acquisition of the necessary land were also carried through.

Consultations and inspections of new septic tank installations also took place.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

As in the previous year, owners of houses not on the water carriage system, where the sewers were available, were informed of the Council's scheme, allowing a grant of half the cost up to a maximum grant of £12 for conversions. During the year grants were made involving 25 dry closets.

Including the conversions otherwise carried out, under the Housing Improvement Grant Scheme, the types of closets at the end of the year were:-

Water Closets	...	2197
Ash-closets	...	634
Ash-pit Privies	...	181.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

No extensions to the areas covered by the cleansing service were made.

The three vehicles were able to give a satisfactory service and during the year the estimated weight of refuse removed was 5,482 tons, the vehicles covering 21,282 miles.

Refuse was disposed of at the main tip at Frosterley, also at Cowshill and Rookhope. Negotiations were in progress for acquiring further refuse tips at Harperley and Frosterley.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The whole-time operator was engaged on disinfection of dwellings, business premises, farms, refuse tips and sewer fields. Treatment of the sewers was carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Of properties inspected, treatment was carried out on 192 dwelling houses, 15 business premises and farms, and 14 other properties (sewer fields, refuse tips etc).

No charge is made for the treatment of private dwellings but work on business premises and farms is recoverable on the basis of actual cost plus overhead expenses.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections were carried out of the shops and food premises.

No formal action was necessary and on the whole the standard of these premises is satisfactory.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspections of the registered slaughter houses were carried out and minor defects in two instances were remedied without formal action. The state of cleanliness was generally satisfactory.

Food was condemned as unfit for sale or human consumption on 43 instances (mainly tinned food) and in each case the food was surrendered voluntarily.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was found necessary regarding smoke abatement, there being few industries of the type usually associated with smoke nuisance.

FACTORIES ACTS

Inspections were carried out under the Factories Acts and defects to sanitary conveniences in two instances were remedied following informal action.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits undertaken by the Department during the year:-

Housing (Public Health and Housing Acts)	126
Housing (Overcrowding)	2
Sanitary Conveniences	94
Drainage	46
Water Supply	42
Food Premises	139
Shops Acts	45
Dairies	6
Slaughter Houses	44
Tents, Vans etc.	16

(Continued over)

Factories and Workplaces	56
Keeping of Animals	2
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	114
Offensive accumulations	1
Smoke Abatement	4
Prevention of Damage by Pests	69.

NUISANCES ETC.

The following table gives the principal nuisances dealt with by means of notices:-

	<u>No. of informal Notices served</u>	<u>No. of Statutory Notices served</u>	<u>Defects Remedied</u>
Public Health & Housing Acts	18	0	18
Sanitary Conveniences	15	3	18
Drainage	3	0	3
Slaughter Houses	2	0	2
Factories and Workplaces	2	0	2
Ashpits and Receptacles	4	7	11
Offensive accumulations	1	0	1

HOUSING

No new dwelling houses were erected during the year, either by the Council or by private enterprise.

Two dwelling houses were in course of erection at Harperley Police Training Centre.

Further inspections were carried out in connection with the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

Interviews and inspections were carried out in connection with applications for Housing Improvement Grants. 35 applications were received and approved during the year.

Since the commencement of this grant scheme 168 applications have been approved by the Council.

I have the honour to be

Yours obediently,

G. A. Macgregor.

Department of
 Housing and
 Community
 Development
 Washington, D.C.

MEMORANDUM

The following table shows the principal purposes of the
 of action:

Number	Principal Purpose	No. of Informal Notices served	No. of Formal Notices served	Total
1	Obtain a permit	1	0	1
2	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
3	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
4	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
5	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
6	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
7	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
8	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
9	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
10	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
11	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
12	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
13	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
14	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
15	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
16	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
17	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
18	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
19	Obtain a permit	0	0	0
20	Obtain a permit	0	0	0

NOTES

No new dwellings were started during the year, either by the Council
 or by private enterprise.
 Two dwelling houses were in course of erection at Harperley Police Station
 Centre.
 Further inspections were carried out in connection with the Council's
 own clearance program.
 Interviews and inspections were carried out in connection with applications
 for Housing Improvement Grants. 35 applications were received and approved during
 the year.
 Since the commencement of this grant scheme 105 applications have been
 approved by the Council.

I have the honor to be

Yours obediently,
 G. A. [Name]