[Report 1964/ Medical Officer of Health, Stevenage U.D.C.

Contributors

Stevenage (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1964

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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1964

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STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS 1964

Medical Officer of Health and Divisional M.O.
for North Herts. area:

V.R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Housing Officer:

R.V. LAMEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy:

A.E. Flintoff, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Offices:

Medical Officer of Health:

Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road, Hitchin. Tel: 50411

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Southgate House, Southgate, Stevenage. Tel: 4231-6

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage Urban District Council.

I present the above report prepared in accordance with the directions of Ministry of Health Circular 1/65.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	5,895
Home Population - Mid 1964 (Registrar General's Estimate)	52,440
Number of habitable houses at 31.12.64	15,144
Rateable Value at 31.12.64	£3,329,961
Estimated product of a Penny Rate (1964/65)	£13,700

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1964

LIVE BIRTHS	Totals	Male	Female
Legitimate	1,273	641	632
Illegitimate	54	33	21
	1,327	674	653

	STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rate for England & Wales
Rate per 1,000 population	25.3	18.4

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births 4.1%

	STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rate for England & Wales

STILL BIRTHS

	Totals	Male	Female
Legitimate	13	9	4
Illegitimate	2	-	2
	15	9	6

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	11.2	16.3

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

Total	Male	Female
1,342	683	659

DEATHS

Total	Male	Female
228	130	98

Rate per 1,000 population	4.3	11.3

INFANT DEATHS

	Total	Male	Female
Under 1 week	10	3	7
At 1 - 4 weeks	1	-	1
At 4 - 52 weeks	2	2	-
	13	5	8

		STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rate for England & Wales
Infant Mortality Rates			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...		9.8	20.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	9.4		
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	18.5		
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)		8.3	13.8
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) ...	7.5		
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	18.6		
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)			
Number of deaths ...	None		
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		0.0	0.25

Causes of Death

	Male	Female
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	14	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	8
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	17	10
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	8
Coronary Disease, Angina	32	17
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-
Other Heart Disease	8	9
Other Circulatory Disease	8	9
Pneumonia	4	5
Bronchitis	8	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	6	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
Congenital Malformations	1	4
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	8	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents	7	-
All other accidents	3	2
Suicide	1	1
Total All Causes	130	98

Comment on Vital Statistics

The total of live births for the past year (1,327) gives a rate of 25.3 per 1,000, still well above the national rate (18.4).

The stillbirth and infant mortality rates are seen to compare very favourably with the national rates. Of the 13 infant deaths under 1 year 11 occurred within 4 weeks from birth.

The local death rate for the year (4.3) against the national rate (12.2) again clearly indicates the low proportion of elderly residents in a new town.

The estimated mid-year population for 1964 of 52,440 gives an annual increase of 2,170 but continued inward migration again makes such a figure out of date.

Deaths from cancer (all sites) gives the favourable figure of 58, of which 16 (14 males and 2 females) were from cancer of lung or bronchus. Local deaths from motor vehicle accidents numbered 7 (all males) while all other accidents numbered 5 (3 males and 2 females).

There was no local death ascribed to any acute infectious disease or to tuberculosis.

The following table shows the main local vital statistics over the ten years 1955 - 1964 :-

		Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mort. Rate
1964	...	25.3	4.3	9.8
1963	...	26.8	4.1	14.1
1962	...	27.3	4.1	19.6
1961	...	25.9	4.6	25.7
1960	...	29.2	4.8	22.2
1959	...	29.2	5.0	15.8
1958	...	30.1	5.2	13.2
1957	...	31.1	5.3	18.4
1956	...	30.8	5.4	17.7
1955	...	28.4	6.0	11.6

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The local sanitary authority services were unchanged during the year.

SECTIONS C to E

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA
& INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Total notification of acute infectious diseases received during the year (after correction) numbered :- Measles - 288, Scarlet Fever - 39, Whooping Cough - 35, Infectious Hepatitis - 25, Dysentery - 4, Acute Encephalitis - 1, Food Poisoning - 1, and Puerperal Pyrexia - 3.

Measles was again epidemic during the early summer. Scarlet Fever was endemic throughout the year and of scattered geographic distribution; a high proportion of cases were of pre-school age and the disease continues relatively mild and uncomplicated. Whooping Cough would appear frequently too mild to be identified, probably an effect of high acceptance rate by parents of TRIPLE vaccine offered in infant life.

Infectious Hepatitis (Jaundice), with a long incubation period of around 4 weeks, had a quarterly incidence 10-10-4-1, and would therefore appear declining locally at the end of the year. The main local incidence fell on junior and secondary school-age children in the Broadwater area, probably with a considerable proportion of mild unrecognised cases and carriers.

Food poisoning - The one notified case, at the end of August, was found to have been a member of a works outing to a seaside resort on the Thames estuary. Nine others in the party, who had similar symptoms without notification, had each consumed shellfish from an open stall. Bacteriological investigation was unsuccessful in isolating any causative organism.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Against smallpox, efforts continue directed towards securing primary vaccination of infants during the second year of life, the recently revised policy recommended by the Ministry of Health. The changeover from the previously recommended first year of life apparently caused for some time a considerable drop in primary vaccination figures in North Herts., followed by improvement in mid 1964. Figures for the mid quarters of 1964 showed an acceptance rate of over 50% for the second year age. Such rate is of course much below that for children accepting oral anti-poliomyelitis vaccine or TRIPLE vaccine, both offered in the first year of life.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus continued unchanged in the form of three separate injections of TRIPLE vaccine from the age of three months. An additional (fourth) 'booster' dose is delayed to around 18 months. Total returns show an acceptance rate well above eighty per cent. An additional 'booster' dose is offered at the age of infant school entry omitting the whooping cough fraction, which when repeated at this long interval is found to cause occasional reactions.

Oral vaccine against poliomyelitis, sandwiched in time between the third and fourth doses of the triple vaccine course, continues to have an equally high acceptance rate. A 'booster' dose is offered of such oral vaccine around time of infant school entry.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1964

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	3	1	1	-	-	-	-

Comments : New notifications of respiratory tuberculosis fell to 13 during the year, against a figure of 22 in 1963.

No death from tuberculosis was recorded locally during the year.

In conclusion, I would acknowledge having received every help during the year from your chief officers; particularly I would acknowledge the most valuable assistance from your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.V. Lamey, who is responsible for the compilation of the Sanitary sections of these reports.

Your obedient Servant,

V.R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1965.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage Urban District Council.

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

i) Water Supply

The Lee Valley Water Company are the water undertakers for the area.

The water supply is regularly sampled by your officers, and during the year, I submitted 90 samples to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton for bacteriological examination - all proved satisfactory. 7 chemical samples taken by the Water Authority also proved satisfactory. In addition, sampling of raw water supplies is regularly undertaken by the Water Authority for bacteriological examinations and chemical analysis.

An adequate supply of water throughout the area is being maintained. Only 4 houses in the Urban District obtain their water from private wells, and two of these dwellings are scheduled for demolition within the next two years, and the remaining two premises obtain their supply from bore holes approximately 200 ft. deep.

SWIMMING POOL

The Swimming Bath waters are regularly sampled for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis.

ii) Sewage Disposal

All main foul water drainage from the town is now dealt with at the Ryemead Sewage Works at Hertford. Few properties remain connected to cesspools or septic tank installations, and these will further decrease as extensions of the main sewerage systems take place.

iii) Refuse Collection

The Public Cleansing Services are controlled by the Council's Surveyor. No tipping is carried out in the town, all refuse being transported 11 miles to a tip at Waterford, Nr. Hertford.

In addition to the normal household refuse collection, the Council also operate a Waste Paper, Trade Refuse and Junk Collection Service.

iv) Rodent Control

Details of Rodent Control work carried out during the year are as follows:-

Total inspections	3,749
No. of infested properties found	628
No. of infested properties treated	625
Complaints received	534

v) Open Air Market

The Council operate an Open Air Market in the Town Centre on Fridays and Saturdays. No open food, other than fruit or vegetables, is permitted to be sold from the stalls; fish, shell fish, ice cream and refreshments may be obtained from three mobile shops, which all satisfy the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Hot and cold water supplies, together with sinks, are provided for the washing of stallholders' equipment, and a public convenience, with hot and cold washing facilities and hand drying equipment, is also available to stallholders.

The market is administered by the Public Health Department.

vi) Knackers Yard

There is one licensed Knackers Yard in the town. This is of model design and is maintained in a satisfactory condition. The premises are regularly inspected.

vii) Petroleum Installations

63 Licences for the storage of Petroleum and Petroleum Mixtures have been issued during the year.

SECTION E

i) Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises

All food premises, which are, in the main, of modern construction satisfy the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, and the hygienic standards maintained by the staffs is generally good.

Details of the food trades in the town, including those contained in the Supermarkets, are as follows:-

Bakehouses	...	...	5
Bakers	...	...	18
Butchers	...	...	31
Cafes	...	...	17
Canteens (including schools)			70
Confectioners	...	...	26
Fishmongers	...	...	10
Greengrocers	...	...	29
Grocers	...	...	42
Guest Houses	...	...	7
Hotels	...	...	4
Licensed Premises	...	...	36

ii) Registration of Food Premises

(a) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Premises registered under Section 16 of this Act are as follows :-

Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	68
Sale of Preserved Food etc.	...	...	33

(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949/54

There are no registered dairies within the town. Licences have been granted to 32 dealers and 2 distributors, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

Regular visits were made to premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream and the preparation or manufacture of sausages and other foods. Those premises selling Ice Cream, but excluded from registration under the Food and Drugs Act, were also inspected.

iv) Disposal of Condemned Food

During the year, apart from meat condemned at the private slaughterhouse, 4 tons 4½ cwts. of foodstuffs were condemned at various food premises in the town. All condemned food is stained with a naphthalene dye and removed from the food shops for disposal under supervision at the Council's tip; strict control is exercised over its disposal.

v) Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations

A regular check is made of the many Ice Cream vendors operating within the town. There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in Stevenage.

vi) Sampling

The following samples were taken during the year:-

		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Milk	...	121	1
Water	...	90	-
Ice Cream	...	148	-

vii) Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

There is one private Slaughterhouse in the town, and 13 persons are licensed by the Council to act as Slaughtermen.

23,395 animals were slaughtered during the year and 5 tons 15 cwts. of meat was condemned.

100% meat inspection has still been maintained although some difficulties have been experienced in enforcing the new requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 and much time continues to be spent byyour officers at the abattoir after normal office hours and on Saturdays and Sundays.

I am pleased to report that following an approach made by the Council to the Stevenage Development Corporation, a site has been found for a new abattoir in the Industrial Area and the owner of the present slaughterhouse has agreed to transfer his business. Plans for the buildings, which are likely to be of two storey

construction and will include processing plant for by-products are now being prepared and it is hoped that the new slaughterhouse will be operational towards the end of 1966.

The Council are operating the maximum charges permissible under the Meat Inspection Regulations, but nevertheless in view of the considerable time spent by the Inspectors at the slaughterhouse, the charges can only be considered as a partial contribution to the cost of this service.

Details of annual slaughtering figures for previous years is shown below for comparative purposes.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1959	606	109	12,730	2,203	15,648
1960	1,286	268	13,769	2,728	18,051
1961	1,571	478	17,528	1,680	21,257
1962	1,849	251	19,177	1,781	23,058
1963	2,146	401	17,823	2,277	22,647
1964	1,790	393	18,388	2,824	23,395

Details of the carcases inspected and condemned during 1964 are given on the table overleaf.

General

I should,in conclusion, like to thank my fellow Chief Officers for the friendly and valuable assistance which they have given me, and also place on record my appreciation of the loyal and helpful service shown by my own staff throughout the year.

Your obedient Servant,

R.V. LAMEY

Chief Public Health Inspector.

June, 1965.

construction and will include processing plant for by-products are now being prepared and it is hoped that the new slaughterhouse will be operational towards the end of 1964.

The Council has operated the maximum charges permissible under the Meat Inspection Regulations, but nevertheless in view of the considerable time spent by the Inspectors at the slaughterhouse, the charges can only be considered as a partial contribution to the cost of this service.

Details of annual slaughtering figures for previous years is shown below for comparative purposes.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1959	600	109	14,730	2,857	18,296
1960	1,288	268	13,769	2,728	18,053
1961	1,371	472	17,558	1,680	21,282
1962	1,849	251	19,177	1,728	22,605
1963	2,148	401	17,835	2,277	22,661
1964	1,700	383	18,388	2,824	23,295

Details of the carcases inspected and condemned during 1964 are given on the table overleaf.

General

I should in conclusion, like to thank my fellow Chief Officers for the technical and valuable assistance which they have given me, and also please convey my appreciation of the loyal and helpful service shown by my own staff throughout the year.

Your obedient Servant,

B.V. LAIT

Chief Public Health Inspector.

June, 1965.

vii) Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection (Cont'd)

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
NUMBER KILLED	1,790	393	18,388	2,824	Nil
NUMBER INSPECTED	1,790	393	18,388	2,824	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI Whole carcases condemned	2	Nil	12	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	356	1	1,920	588	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	20	.25	10.5	20.9	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	33	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.06	Nil	Nil	1.2	Nil
CYSTICERCOSIS Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
NUMBER KILLED	3,790	595	18,382	2,834	Nil
NUMBER INSPECTED	3,790	595	18,382	2,834	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI Whole carcases condemned	2	Nil	12	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	356	1	1,930	258	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	20	.2%	10.5	20.9	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	32	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.06	Nil	Nil	1.2	Nil
CYSTICERCOSIS Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1964 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF STEVENAGE IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(PART 1)

INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect-ions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	24	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	-	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	42	69	-	-
Total	128	93	-	-

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN
RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1964-FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
STAVELEY IN THE COUNTY OF DERBYSHIRE

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(PART I)

INSPECTIONS for the purpose of providing as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	24	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	-	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	44	69	-	-
Total	128	93	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remed-ied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	6	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel making etc.	33	-	-	-	-	-
Leather Goods	7	-	-	-	-	-
Total	40	-	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	6	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110				Section 111	
	No. of Outworkers in August list received by Section 110 (1) (a).	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	lists sent out	Prosecutions
Lace	-					
Apparel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Knitting etc.						
Leather Goods	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-