

[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Wilmslow U.D.C.

Contributors

Wilmslow (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1925

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WILMSLOW
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

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FOR THE YEAR 1925.



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WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	5,090
Population :	
Census 1921	8,260
Estimated 30th June, 1925, by Registrar General ...	8,614
Estimated from number of inhabited houses ...	9,200

Physical features and general character of area :

It forms part of the Cheshire plain and is traversed by the valley of the Bollin. The subsoil is chiefly sand and clay. On Lindow Common and in its neighbourhood there is peat. The District is partly suburban and partly rural in character.

Number of inhabited houses (1921)...	2,093
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)...	2,104
Rateable value	£67,271
Sum represented by a penny rate	£225

Social Conditions :

A considerable part of the population is residential, chiefly composed of persons engaged in business in Manchester, with their families. There are no large works in the district. There are a steam laundry, a stationery works, an underclothing manufactory. Some of the inhabitants work at a cotton mill at Styal, just outside the district. Many are employed in the ordinary local trades and in agriculture.

Vital Statistics:

		Total	M.	F.		
Births	{ Legitimate	111	63	48	} Birth-rate (R.G.) ...	13·6
	{ Illegitimate	7	1	6		
Deaths	... ..	88	45	43	Death-rate (R.G.) ...	10·2

For England and Wales the birth-rate per 1,000 population was 18·3, and the death-rate 12·2.

The average birth-rate for the five years 1921-1925, was 14·9, and the death-rate 11·1.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—

From Sepsis	... ..	1
From other causes	... ..	none

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births—

Legitimate, 33·9; Illegitimate, 0; Total	33·9
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Deaths from Measles (all ages)	none
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	none
„ „ Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	none

As a rule there is not much unemployment. Persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief are mostly aged and past work. There is no hospital in the district. The inhabitants make use of the hospitals in Manchester and Stockport, to which the Council are subscribers.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided by or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.—

- (1) Tuberculosis: The Bucklow Joint Hospital Board, on which the Local Authority is represented, has the use of 15 beds in the Baguley Sanatorium for Tuberculosis under the Manchester Corporation.

The Cheshire County Council provides 120 beds in the Cheshire Joint Sanatorium at Burntwood, in

Staffordshire, for patients resident within the area of the Administrative County of Chester.

- (2) Maternity : None.
- (3) Children : None.
- (4) Fever and Smallpox : Cases are admitted to Monsall Hospital by arrangement between the Bucklow Joint Hospital Board and the Manchester Corporation.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the district.—

None.

Ambulance facilities.—

- (a) For infectious cases :

The Manchester Corporation provides a motor ambulance.

- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases :

There is a horse ambulance belonging to the Council. A British Red Cross motor ambulance is also available.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—

There are none in the district. The County Council provides a nurse to visit the infants periodically during the first year of life. Patients are sent to the County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary at Stockport, and to the Treatment Centres for Venereal Diseases in Manchester.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.—

Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor (whole time).

Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Contribution is made to the salaries of these Officers under the Public Health Acts.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—

(a) General :

A nurse is provided by the Wilmslow District Nursing Association.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles, etc.

No arrangements have been made, but the Local Authority would probably provide a nurse if the need arose, as has been done in the past.

Midwives.—

There is a midwife subsidised by the County Council. Three other midwives practise in the area.

Chemical Work:—

None required.

Legislation in Force.—

(a) Local Acts, Special Local Orders :

None.

(b) General Adoptive Acts :

- (1) Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.
- (2) Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III.
- (3) Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32 and 33, comprised in Part II ;

Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49 and 50, comprised in Part III.

Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, comprised in Part IV ; and Part V.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.*Water.*—

The Stockport Corporation supply water from their works at Kinder and from bore-holes in the New Red Sandstone.

The supply is constant, good and ample for all needs.

Some parts of the rural area are dependent upon wells.

No action has been taken during the year in respect of any form of contamination.

Rivers and Streams.—

No complaints of pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage.—

Considerable alterations have been made at the Southern Outfall Works consisting of new Settling Tanks and three 70 feet diameter Percolating Filters.

Closet Accommodation.—

73 privies were converted into water closets during the year, and there are now 1,654 water closets, 347 privies in the urban area, and 272 in the rural area.

Scavenging.—

The Council undertakes the scavenging. The dry refuse is put on farm land to fill up hollows, and the night soil on bog and farm land for use as manure.

Smoke Abatement.—

No action taken.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.—

There is one common lodging-house. It has been inspected and found to be in a fairly satisfactory structural condition and satisfactory as regards cleanliness.

There are no underground sleeping rooms or offensive trades.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring notice.

None.

Schools.—

The sanitary conditions and water supply are satisfactory.

Tabular Statement of Inspections for the Year ended December 31st, 1925.

	A		B		C		
	Number and Nature of Inspections made.		No. of Notices served		Result of Service of Notices		
	Number	Statutory	Informal	Notices com- plied with	Remaining in hand	Instituted	Prosecutions Pending
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspections)...	97	...	6	6	...	...	—
2. Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets ...	86	...	86	67	19	...	—
3. Cesspools ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	—
4. House Drainage ...	18	...	8	7	2	...	—
5. Offensive Accumulations ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	—
6. The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3))	1	...	1	1	...	...	—
7. Slaughterhouses (Private) ...	8	...	—	—	...	...	—
8. Piggeries ...	2	...	—	1	...	...	—
9. (a) Cowsheds ...	20	...	—	—	...	...	—
(b) Milkshops ...	1	...	—	—	...	...	—
10. Workshops ...	8	...	1	1	...	...	—
11. Bakehouses ...	8	...	—	—	...	...	—
12. Common Lodging Houses ...	3	...	—	—	...	...	—
13. Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits ...	25	...	—	—	...	...	—
Totals ...	279	...	2	104	85	21	...

(Signed) A. S. CARTWRIGHT.

HOUSING.

(1) *General Housing Conditions in the Area :—*

To meet the considerable shortage of houses the Council shortly have decided to erect 50 houses, which work will be commenced, subject to the consent of the Ministry of Health being obtained.

(2) *Overcrowding :—*

(1) A partial survey of the district was made and from the inspection of 726 houses there were found to be 11 cases of overcrowding and 68 houses in which 2 families were living.

(2) Due to shortage of houses and lack of 3 bedrooms in houses.

(3) New houses are to be built as a remedy.

(4) No action has been taken in regard to cases of overcrowding.

(3) *Fitness of houses :—*

(1)—(a) The general standard of housing in the area is satisfactory.

(b) General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses :—

1. Defectiveness of general structural condition due to age.

2. Insufficiency of air-space.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses :—
Inspections carried out and defects made good.

(3) There were no difficulties in remedying or special measures required.

(4) Conditions, so far as they effect housing, as regards water supply and refuse disposal are satisfactory. The conversion of privies into water closets is proceeding.

(4) *Unhealthy areas :—*

None

- (5) *Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let as lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc. :—*

The bye-laws have been revised and have been approved by the Ministry of Health.

- (6) *General and Miscellaneous :—*

Nothing to add to above particulars.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))... 88.
 (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :
 (i) By the Local Authority ... none.
 (ii) By other bodies or persons ... 39.

1. *Unfit Dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... none.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 6.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 1.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 1.

2. *Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... none.

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... none.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... 1.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... none.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... none.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... none.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... none.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... none.

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... 1.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 1.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... none.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... none.

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... none.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—

The quality of milk is good.

There are adequate arrangements for supply and distribution.

The premises are fairly well kept.

(i) No action has been taken in regard to tuberculosis milk and tuberculosis cattle.

(ii) No applications for licenses for the sale of milk under special designations have been received.

(b) *Meat.*—

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

A Veterinary Surgeon has been appointed who reports to the Sanitary Committee once a month.

There is no public slaughter house.

Number of private slaughter houses in use—

		In 1920		In January, 1925		In December, 1925
Registered	...	7	...	8	...	8
Licensed	...	7	...	8	...	8
		—		—		—
Total	...	7	...	8	...	8

(c) *Other Foods.*—

No action has been called for in regard to unsound food.

The bakehouses have been inspected and found to be in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

(d) *Food Poisoning.*—

No cases have occurred.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

During the period since 1920 there were notified 60 cases of Diphtheria with 11 deaths; 85 of Scarlet Fever without a death;

3 of Enteric Fever with 1 death; 3 of Puerperal Fever with 2 deaths (one fatal case arose in hospital and was not notified to this Authority); 27 of Pneumonia with 29 deaths; 3 of Encephalitis Lethargica in 1924 and 1 in 1925 with 1 death.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No "return cases" of Scarlet Fever.

Diphtheria was unusually prevalent in the years 1921, 1922 and 1923. The disease broke out in widely separated parts of the district amongst children attending different schools. Connection between the cases could seldom be found, nor could infection be traced to "carriers," milk, water or sanitary defects. There were 48 cases in the years 1921 and 1922 and 12 in the three following years. There were 11 deaths, giving a case-mortality of 18.3 per cent. 33 of the patients were removed to hospital. Anti-toxin, provided by the Council, was freely used.

The incidence of Pneumonia is not fully represented in the number of notifications received. Efforts have been made to secure more complete returns from practitioners.

No cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever have been notified.

Under the arrangements made by the Council with the Director of the Manchester Public Health Laboratory the following bacteriological examinations were made during 1925:

	Total	Positive
Diphtheria	19	1
Enteric Fever	2	0

Examinations made in the Public Health Laboratory of the County Council:

	Total	Positive
Tuberculosis (Sputum)	9	5

By arrangements made between the Bucklow Joint Hospital Board, on which the Council is represented, and the Manchester Corporation, cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Monsall Fever Hospital, and bedding, etc., removed for disinfection. Premises are disinfected by the Council.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods	New Cases						Deaths				
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
0	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	—	—	...	1	3	...	—	—	...	1	2
5	—	—	...	2	1	...	—	—	...	—	—
10	—	—	...	—	1	...	—	—	..	—	—
15	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
20	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
25	1	1	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—
35	1	—	...	—	1	...	—	—	..	—	—
45	2	—	..	—	—	...	2	—	...	—	—
55	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
Totals	4	1	...	4	6	...	3	—	..	1	2

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action taken.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action taken.

ALFRED BYERS,
Medical Officer of Health.

