

“Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England”

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What is Public Health?

- Public Health is: The science and art of promoting and protecting health and wellbeing, preventing ill health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society.
- three domains of Public Health:
 - health improvement (including people's lifestyles as well as inequalities in health and the wider social influences of health)
 - health protection (including infectious diseases, environmental hazards and emergency preparedness)
 - health services (including service planning, efficiency, audit and evaluation).

The current issues

- A whole chapter on progress and current problems in the health of the public
 - Life expectancy – improvement but inequalities
 - Maternal wellbeing and infant health
 - Childhood inequalities
 - Obesity, Alcohol, Tobacco
 - Sexual Health
 - Mental Health
 - Wider factors influencing health
 - Etc, etc



A radical new approach

- not been enough focus on the root causes of ill health
- top-down initiatives and lectures from central government about the 'risks' are not the answer - centralisation has failed
- free up local government and local communities to decide how best to improve the health and wellbeing of their citizens,
- the NHS will continue to have a critical role to play but it cannot tackle all the wider factors on its own
- responsibility needs to be shared right across society

Who then?

- Individuals should feel that they are in the driving seat for all aspects of their and their family's health, wellbeing and care
- Local government is best placed to influence many of the wider factors that affect health and wellbeing
- The NHS continues to have a crucial role
- Charities, voluntary organisations and community groups already make a vital contribution
- Businesses must take more responsibility for the impact of their practices on people's health and wellbeing
- Employers from all sectors should look to support the health and wellbeing of their staff

No more targets but a Health Outcomes Framework

- **Domain 1** – Health protection and resilience: protecting people from major health emergencies and serious harm to health;
- **Domain 2** – Tackling the wider determinants of ill health: addressing factors that affect health and wellbeing;
- **Domain 3** – Health improvement: positively promoting the adoption of ‘healthy’ lifestyles;
- **Domain 4** – Prevention of ill health: reducing the number of people living with preventable ill health; and
- **Domain 5** – Healthy life expectancy and preventable mortality: preventing people from dying prematurely



Core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility applied

- the Government will:-
 - recognise that protecting and improving people's health covers a wide spectrum of issues that demand very different approaches
 - balance the freedoms of individuals and organisations with the need to avoid serious harm to others
 - consider different approaches for different groups of the population

What will Public Health be focussed on?

- children - strong universal public health & early education. Increased focus on disadvantaged families. Heavy emphasis on health visitors, schools, school nurses and families
- designing communities for active ageing & sustainability
- emphasis on transition points in life & ladder of intervention
- making it pay to work
- working collaboratively with business and voluntary sector through the Public Health Responsibility Deal



The Public Health System

- local government will be given the responsibility, backed by ring-fenced budgets and new freedoms (?)
- Directors of Public Health in upper-tier and unitary local authorities will lead these efforts
- local statutory health and wellbeing boards
- a new, dedicated and professional public health service, known as Public Health England

Issues to consider

- Little mention of existing PH staff and issues of transfer (e.g. terms and conditions, pensions etc)
- Associated review of regulation of PH professionals
- Ring fenced local budgets – how much? And what is included?
- Who is going to commission what and who's behalf
- Access of PH staff to NHS systems and information
- Costs of change
- Links with GP consortia, District Councils



Making it happen

- Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the Government plans to:
 - enable the creation of Public Health England, which will take on full responsibilities from 2012, including the formal transfer of functions and powers from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA);
 - transfer local health improvement functions to local government, with ringfenced funding allocated to local government from April 2013; and
 - give local government new functions to increase local accountability and support integration and partnership working across social care, the NHS and public health



Impact for Children's Services Partnerships

- Closer relationship with Public Health Commissioners
- More complicated range of bodies involved locally
- More focus on underlying causes of poor health
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure change
- The need to re-define partnership “hierarchy”