



Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod, Executive Director of Adult Care and Community Wellbeing

Report to:	Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Date:	8 September 2021
Subject:	Role of Director of Public Health and Service Areas

Summary:

The Director of Public Health (DPH) is a statutory chief officer role in upper tier local authorities. Their role is to act as an independent advocate for the health of the population and provide leadership for its improvement and protection.

The purpose of this report is to outline the role and responsibilities of the DPH and to provide details of the three domains of Public Health - health improvement, health protection and healthcare Public Health.

Actions Required:

Adult Care and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the content of this report.

1. Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for Public Health from the NHS to local government. It is one of the most significant extensions of local government powers and duties in a generation and provided a unique opportunity to change the focus, from treating sickness to actively promoting health and wellbeing by taking a wider local approach to the determinants of health and health inequalities.

To support a local government-led approach to better Public Health, every upper tier local authority is required to employ a specialist Director of Public Health (DPH), jointly appointed with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care although Public Health England discharges this role on behalf of the Secretary of State. The DPH is a statutory chief officer and the principal adviser on all health matters to elected members and officers.

In addition, the DPH is accountable for the delivery of the authority's Public Health duties within the three domains of Public Health – health improvement, health protection and healthcare public health. The DPH also has a vital system leadership role working with NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group and other NHS organisations in Lincolnshire to ensure better Public Health. This is particularly pertinent with the development of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), which will come into formal existence from April 2022.

1.1 Role and Responsibilities of the Director of Public Health

Updated guidance issued by the Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England in January 2020, defines the role of the DPH as an:

'influential system leader with oversight and expertise across all determinants of health within local authorities, the NHS and other sectors and agencies, working across organisational boundaries, in a complex system with a wide range of stakeholders, to influence and facilitate systemwide change and secure the improving health of their population.'

The DPH's specific responsibilities and duties arise directly from legislation. In particular, the National Health Service Act 2006, the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and related regulations. Some of these duties are closely defined but most allow for local discretion in how they are delivered. In general, the statutory responsibilities of the DPH outlined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 are designed to match exactly the corporate Public Health duties of the local authority. The exception is the DPH's annual report on the health of the local population where he/she has a duty to write one, whereas the Council's duty is to publish it.

Otherwise, section 73A (1) of the 2006 Act, inserted by section 30 of the 2012 Act, gives the DPH responsibility for:

- all of the Council's duties to take steps to improve Public Health;
- any of the Secretary of State's Public health protection or health improvement functions that he/she delegates to local authorities, either by arrangement or under regulations (these include services mandated by regulations made under section 6C of the 2006 Act, inserted by section 18 of the 2012 Act);
- the Council's role in planning for and responding to emergencies that present a risk to Public Health;
- the Council's role in co-operating with the police, the probation service and the prison service to assess the risks posed by violent or sexual offenders; and
- such other Public Health functions that the Secretary of State specifies in regulations.

As well as these core functions, the Acts and regulations give the DPH more specific responsibilities from April 2013. The DPH is a mandated member of the local Health and Wellbeing Board, and through regulations made under 2006 Act, is also responsible for the local authority's Public Health response as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003, such as making representations about licensing applications.

1.2 Domains of Public Health

The practice of Public Health is defined by the Faculty of Public Health as *'the science and art of promoting and protecting health and wellbeing, preventing ill health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society.'* Public Health practice

- is population based,
- emphasises collective responsibility for health, health protection and disease prevention,
- relies upon strong working relationships and partnership working.

Public Health practice is based on the following three domains:

- **Health Improvement** – enabling people and communities to improve their health and wellbeing by addressing the wider determinants of health
- **Health Protection** – preventing and responding to contagious or infectious diseases and environmental hazards and promoting resilience to future risks
- **Healthcare Public Health** – maximising the quality of health and social care services for the population.

Each of these domains is underpinned by:

- Public Health intelligence – the collection, analysis and interpretation of data and research evidence;
- workforce development – continuous professional development and support; and
- academic Public Health.

A summary of the Public Health services and responsibilities aligned to the three domains of Public Health is provided in Appendix A. The items shown in bold are those explicitly mandated by the Secretary of State.

Public Health receives an annual Public Health Grant (PHG) from the Department of Health and Social Care which for 2021/22 is £33.90m. There are conditions attached to the grant and the DPH is required to prepare a return at the end of the financial year setting out how the grant has been spent. In addition to the grant, Public Health also receives core LCC funding for commissioning services not covered by the PHG, which for 2021/22 is £10.89m. Therefore, Public Health's total budget is £44.79m. A summary of the budget is contained in Appendix B.

Appendix C shows the 2021/22 Public Health Division Plan on a Page.

2. Conclusion

The DPH is a statutory officer role in upper tier local authorities with responsibility for improving and protecting the health of the local population.

3. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Public Health Services and Responsibilities
Appendix B	Public Health Budget Summary 2021/22
Appendix C	Public Health Division Plan on a Page 2021/22

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Directors of Public Health in Local Government - Roles, Responsibilities and Context (2020)	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/role-of-the-director-of-public-health-in-local-authorities

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Public Health Services and Responsibilities (**Mandated Services***)

Health Improvement	Health Care Public Health	Health Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco control and smoking cessation initiatives • Alcohol and Drug misuse services • Interventions to tackle obesity • Community nutrition initiatives • Increasing physical activity levels in the local population • NHS Health Check Programme* • Public mental health services • Dental public health services • Accidental injury prevention • Population level interventions to reduce and prevent birth defects • Behavioural and lifestyle campaigns to prevent cancer and other long-term conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local initiatives on workplace health • Local initiatives to reduce excess deaths as a result of seasonal mortality • Supporting, reviewing and challenging delivery of NHS delivered services • Comprehensive sexual health services* (excluding HIV treatment services and terminations) • Ensuring NHS Commissioners receive the public health advice they need (core public health offer)* • Children's public health services • The National Child Measurement Programme* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role in dealing with health protection incidents and emergencies including duty to ensure there are plans in place to protect the health of the population* • Public health aspects of promotion of community safety, violence prevention and response • Public health aspects of local initiatives to tackle social exclusion • The local authority role in dealing with health protection incidents, outbreaks and emergencies* • Local initiatives that reduce public health impacts of environment risks*

Public Health Division Budget 2021/22

Public Health Grant is allocated as follows:

Children's Public Health	£10.53m
Misc. Public Health Services	£5.8m
Substance Misuse	£5.55m
Sexual Health Services	£5.17m
Public Health Functions	£3.77m
Integrated Lifestyle Service	£1.73m
NHS Health Checks	£0.59m
Water Fluoridation	£0.31m
Health Protection	£0.30m
Tobacco Control	£0.15m
Total	£33.90m

The Lincolnshire County Council Core Funding is allocated as follows:

Wellbeing Service	£4.10m
Community Equipment	£2.27m
Housing Related Support	£2.26m
Carers Service	£1.86m
Domestic Abuse	£0.4m
Total	£10.89m

Public Health Division Plan on a Page

Vision	People stay as healthy, safe & independent as possible during all stages of their life				
Mission	Helping people to improve their health & wellbeing with a particular focus on prevention, early intervention & reducing health inequalities				
Objectives	1. Prevention 2. Early Intervention		3. Reducing inequalities 4. Making Every Contact Count		
Priorities	Health Protection	Fulfils statutory requirements	Influence and Relationships	Supports community, social or economy	Enablers
Work Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid Response & Recovery • Contact Tracing • Community & Voluntary Sector Engagement • Outbreak management • Immunisation and Screening • Community Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) • Communicable Diseases Management • Emergency Preparedness, Resilience & Response (EPRR) • Oral Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Strategic Needs Assessment • Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment • Director of Public Health Annual Report • Health and Wellbeing Board • NHS Health Checks • Substance Misuse • Sexual Health • Healthwatch Lincolnshire • Clinical Governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS/CCG • Integrated Care System Development • Disabled Facilities Grant • Green Masterplan inc. Fuel Poverty/Warm Homes • Transport • Primary Care Network Place Delivery • Cross County Links • Provider Links • Centre for Ageing Better • Commissioning/links with Commercial Team • Health Care Public Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health inc. Suicide Prevention • Physical Activity & Weight Management • Health Inequalities • Community & Voluntary Sector Engagement / Recovery • Carers • Children and Young People Services • Homes for Independence blueprint / HHCDG Delivery Plan • Lincolnshire Community Equipment Services • LCC Employee Health and Wellbeing Strategy • Housing Related Support • Wellbeing Service • One You Lincolnshire • Domestic Abuse Refuges • Social Isolation Strategy • Expansion of Prevention • Social Prescribing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Strategic Asset Assessment • Population Health Management • Housing, Health and Care Delivery Group • Digital Roadmap inc. Connect to Support Lincolnshire • Quality Assurance & Continuous Improvement • Intelligence • Research • Deep Dive • Academic Research/ University
Meets Corporate Objectives	Enabling everyone to enjoy life to the full	High Aspirations & Provide good value council services	Create thriving environments	Enabling everyone to enjoy life to the full & Provide good value council services	High Aspirations

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