

Report of the Public Health Transition Task Group

Purpose of report

1. To present the recommendations of the Public Health Transition Task Group and seek endorsement for them.

Background

2. The Health Select Committee (HSC) held a workshop in October 2012 to bring together partners from health and social care and also to assist them in identifying topics for the HSC work programme. The transition of Public Health to the Council was identified as a key theme.
3. At its meeting on 15 November 2012, the HSC agreed to establish a Task Group on the Transition of Public Health, and this was endorsed by the Overview and Management Committee on 13 December 2012.
4. The Task Group comprised the following membership:

Cllr Richard Britton
Cllr Chris Caswill
Cllr Peter Davis
Cllr Peter Hutton
5. The Task Group was due to meet on the afternoon of 6 February and hoped to take evidence from Cllr Keith Humphries, Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Public Protection. Unfortunately, a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel scheduled for the morning of 6 February overran significantly and Cllrs Richard Britton, Chris Caswill and Keith Humphries, all of whom were involved in the Police and Crime Panel, were unexpectedly not able to attend the Task Group meeting.
6. It was agreed that the Task Group meeting would go ahead. Cllr Peter Davis suggested that Cllr Peter Hutton lead the meeting.
7. The Task Group received evidence from Maggie Rae, Corporate Director and Associate Directors for Public Health, Aimee Stimpson (Information and Intelligence) and Deborah Haynes, Protection and Resilience).
8. The Task Group reviewed the following document:
 - Update on the Transition of Public Health, which had been prepared for the Health Select Committee on 17 January 2013 and presented at that meeting by Cllr Keith Humphries.

Summary of information

9. Public Health was engaging with other teams across the Council to ensure that public health aspects were considered in all services.
10. Issues around IT systems and security had been resolved with the NHS.
11. The Public Health believed that staffing levels in the team were acceptable at present, but this might increase if more areas of work were developed.
12. It was confirmed that Public Health adhered to, and implemented, all relevant UK guidance on public safety.
13. The Public Health budget will be transferred to Wiltshire in April 2013; it will be ring-fenced.
14. Decisions are being taken in line with national guidance on the Public Health transfer.

Conclusions

15. From the evidence it had reviewed the Task Group was satisfied that:
 - a. the physical relocation of staff had been completed smoothly,
 - b. the necessary HR procedures were being followed,
 - c. IT issues had been resolved with the NHS,
 - d. Public Health was engaging with services across the Council, local communities and the Clinical Commissioning Group,
 - e. Emergency plans were robust over the transition period.
16. The Task Group was satisfied that the transition of Public Health from the NHS to the Council was progressing smoothly.

Recommendations

The Task Group recommends that:

- 1. The Health Select Committee disbands the Public Health Transition Task Group.**
- 2. That an update report on the transition is presented to the Health Select Committee at its meeting on 14 November 2013.**

Cllr Peter Hutton (lead)
Public Health Transition Task Group

Report Author: Maggie McDonald, Senior Scrutiny Officer
01225 713679 maggie.mcdonald@wiltshire.gov.uk