

Report of the Public Health Transition Update

Purpose of report

1. To present an update on the Public Health Transition following the Task Group Report in March 2013

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 used a report on the transition of Public Health which was presented to the Health Select Committee in January 2013 as the basis for the task group.

Position, March 2013

6. The task group were assured that the transition of Public Health responsibilities were being planned and actioned appropriately. The key findings are summarised below;-
 - a) Public Health was engaging with other teams across the Council to ensure that public health aspects were considered in all services.
 - b) Issues around IT systems and security had been resolved with the NHS.
 - c) 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.
 - d) It was confirmed that Public Health adhered to, and implemented, all relevant UK guidance on public safety.

- e) The Public Health budget will be transferred to Wiltshire in April 2013; it will be ring-fenced.
- f) Decisions are being taken in line with national guidance on the Public Health

Conclusion - March 2013

- 7. 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.
- 8. The Task Group was satisfied that the transition of Public Health from the NHS to the Council was progressing smoothly.

Update, January 2014

- 9. Since March 2013 the formal transfer of responsibilities and staff have taken place. I am pleased to report that this was a smooth transition with no unexpected consequences.
- 10. As a result in June 2013 the Public Health Transition Project Board which had overseen the transition was formally closed.
- 11. Public Health is fully embedded in the Council's new business plan 2013-17. This includes a key action to integrate public health at the heart of all public services.
- 12. All Cabinet reports now include a Public Health implications section ensuring health and wellbeing needs of the population are considered for all policy decisions.
- 13. The Council published its first Public Health Annual Report in September 2013 which detailed a number of recent public health successes and sets out future priorities. The report is available at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-2012-2013-report.pdf>
- 14. Public Health have continued to engage with other teams across the Council to ensure that public health aspects were considered in all services areas.
- 15. Public Health have also worked with Communications in relation to external communications. A number of successful campaigns have been run including the response to the measles outbreak, sun awareness campaign. Further information has also been made available for the public through Public Health web pages have been developed which include a short film about Public Health in Wiltshire
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/publichealthwilts/phtoptipsforbetterhealth.htm>

16. Issues around IT systems and security had been resolved with the NHS, commissioning support units and with national organisations
17. A number of vacant posts within the team have been or are in the process of being filled. This includes a new Associate Director of Public Health and Protection service as a result of the Council's senior management restructure. The post is currently being advertised.
18. A memorandum of understanding has been agreed with the new Clinical Commissioning Group which details how Public Health provide advice to the CCG. A MOU has also been agreed with Public Health England to ensure an appropriate out of hours response is available for Public Health incidents.
19. The Public Health grant transferred to Wiltshire Council in April 2013; it is ring-fenced until March 2016. The grant must be used to:
 - a. Improve significantly the health and wellbeing of local populations
 - b. Carry out health protection and health improvement functions delegated from the Secretary of State
 - c. Reduce health inequalities across the life course, including within hard to reach groups and
 - d. Ensure the provision of population healthcare advice

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