

Report of the Director of Public Health and Strategic Director Adult & Community Services to the meeting of Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on 18 October 2011.

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Subject:

Report on the arrangements for the transfer of responsibility for Public Health

Summary statement:

The Health White Paper *Equity and Excellence: Liberating The NHS*, published in July 2010, set out plans for the transition of the current Public Health function within Primary Care Trusts to transfer to Local Authorities by April 2013.

In Bradford and Airedale, a local Transition Plan for Public Health has been drawn up and agreed by the Public Health Senior Management Team, with discussions taking place with colleagues at the Local Authority and across the region through existing networks.

A comprehensive local consultation exercise was undertaken in respect of the plans set out in the White Paper, and the results of this have also been used to inform transition planning.

It is anticipated that the Public Health function will begin its transfer in early 2012. Joint working between Public Health and the Local Authority is already well established and ongoing discussions between both have underpinned the approach taken.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area: Health

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Health White Paper *Equity and Excellence: Liberating The NHS*, published in July 2010, set out plans for the transition of the current Public Health function within Primary Care Trusts to transfer to Local Authorities by April 2013.
- 1.2. In Bradford and Airedale, a local Transition Plan for Public Health has been drawn up and agreed by the Public Health Senior Management Team, with discussions taking place with colleagues at the Local Authority and across the region through existing networks.
- 1.3. A comprehensive local consultation exercise was undertaken in respect of the plans set out in the White Paper, and the results of this have also been used to inform transition planning.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In July 2010, the Coalition Government published the White Paper *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*. This set proposals out a wide-ranging number of significant changes to both the commissioning and provision of health and social care, the most significant being:
 - A firm commitment to decentralisation
 - Transfer of the majority of commissioning funds to General Practice Consortia
 - Abolition of Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities
 - A renewed focus on patient choice, with a statutory body, HealthWatch representing patients
 - The introduction of outcomes frameworks, with NICE having an expanded role in this respect
 - The establishment of an NHS Commissioning Board with responsibility for commissioning of specialist services and Primary Care
 - The establishment of local Health and WellBeing Boards which would become the central local body for strategic overview of health and social care
 - MONITOR to act as an economic regulator, with the Care Quality Commission acting as national quality inspectorate
 - The transition of PCT Health Improvement/Public Health functions from PCTs to Local Authorities
- 2.2 Following this, a Public Health White Paper was published in November 2010, accompanied by additional consultation papers on the funding and commissioning of Public Health, and a proposed Public Health Outcomes Framework.

3. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Both Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committees have received presentations on the details of the White Paper and the Public Health White Paper and its associated documents.
- 3.2 Elected members were consulted directly on the responses to the consultations associated with the Public Health White Paper. The chairs of both Overview and Scrutiny Committees were in attendance

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The timetable for the proposed changes to Public Health covers the period from publication of the White Papers to April 2013, at which stage the reforms are expected to have been completed.
- 4.2 In the meantime, further information on the changes and their implementation is being published by the Department of Health and a number of key details are still awaited.
- 4.3 In Yorkshire and the Humber, the Regional Directors of Public Health Group is providing leadership on the transition and Dr Anita Parkin, joint Director of Public Health for Bradford and Airedale sits on this group.
- 4.4 In addition, Regional Transition Guidelines have been drawn up to underpin the process across Yorkshire and the Humber for different workstreams, e.g. Screening and Commissioning.
- 4.4 The Public Health Directorate at NHS Bradford and Airedale is currently finalising a detailed local Transition Plan for Public Health which is based on the Regional Transition Guidelines, and is also informed by the local responses to the Public Health consultations.
- 4.5 This Plan will cover the period up to and including April 2013, and identifies and delegates key objectives, tasks and achievement of milestones

5. OPTIONS

N/A

6. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The Public Health White Paper has indicated that Public Health will receive a ring-fenced grant in order to establish and provide its functions and services. The amount of grant and its conditions have not yet been confirmed by the Department of Health, although the consultation documents do indicate that a proportion is likely to be contained within a "Health Premium" which will be contingent on outcomes achieved locally

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The framework for the local Public Health Transition Plan includes a consideration of associated risks, in particular the risks associated with ensuring maintenance of the extent and quality of local Health Improvement and Health Protection services and functions, both during the transition period and beyond as new structures are implemented

8. LEGAL APPRAISAL

N/A

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 EQUAL RIGHTS

The Department of Health has undertaken Equality Impact Assessments as part of the processes underpinning the Public Health White Paper. Any local requirements in this respect will be incorporated into the local transition plan along side the existing requirements of the PCT and Local Authority

9.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The role of Public Health in contributing to sustainability strategies and workstreams will be considered as part of the work to ensure that Public Health functions and services maintain their capability and quality through the transition process and beyond as new structures are established

9.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

N/A

9.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

The role of Public Health in contributing to community safety strategies and workstreams (for example, Public Health involvement in minimising harm from alcohol and substance abuse) will be considered as part of the work to ensure that Public Health functions and services maintain their capability and quality through the transition process and beyond as new structures are established.

9.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

N/A

9.6 TRADE UNION

Trade Union issues relating to the transition of staff are being addressed initially through the Department of Health with key representative organisations

9.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

N/A

10. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

N/A

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Shadow Board note progress that is taking place and endorse the approach taken

12. APPENDICES

Bradford and Airedale Public Health Transition Plan 2011-2013

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS, Department of Health July 2010

Health Lives Healthy People: The Public Health White Paper, Department of Health
November 2010