

Healthy Lives, Healthy People the new public health system May 2012

South West Public Health Transition Bulletin:

INTRODUCTION FROM JIM O'BRIEN, DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, NHS SOUTH OF ENGLAND (WEST)

During April and May I have been travelling around the South West region providing feedback to local areas on their local transition plans. Gemma Dunn and myself have spoken with each Director of Public Health along with their Local Authority Chief Executive and Cluster Primary Care Trust Chief Executive. This experience has left me most encouraged by the real progress being made in local areas and I have every belief that all public health teams will be prepared to make their move in Local Authorities by April 2013. There are still some uncertainties ahead, public health budgets, workforce transfers, emergency planning, screening and immunisation remain key areas require further clarification. Engaging with the workforce consultation is paramount and I am delighted that the Education and Development sub-group has organised a consultation event on Monday 18 June, Somerset Cricket Club. Please email swtransition@dh.gsi.gov.uk if you would like to attend.

On the 2 May 2012, NHS South of England colleagues met with the Public Health England Transition Team (PHETT) to discuss the progress of public health transition in the South of England. Local Government and Primary Care Trust representatives attended a section of the meeting and Ruth Hussey, Director of Public Health, PHETT, has recently written to these attendees. The letter has been shared with Local Authority Chief Executives, Cluster Primary Care Trust Chief Executives and Directors of Public Health.

On 17 May 2012 a joint Local Government Association and Chief Medical Officer letter was issued confirming that NHS public health staff transferring to Local Authorities will continue to have access to their NHS pension on the point of transfer. The letter and frequently asked questions can be accessed on the Department of Health website at, <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/05/public-health-pensions>

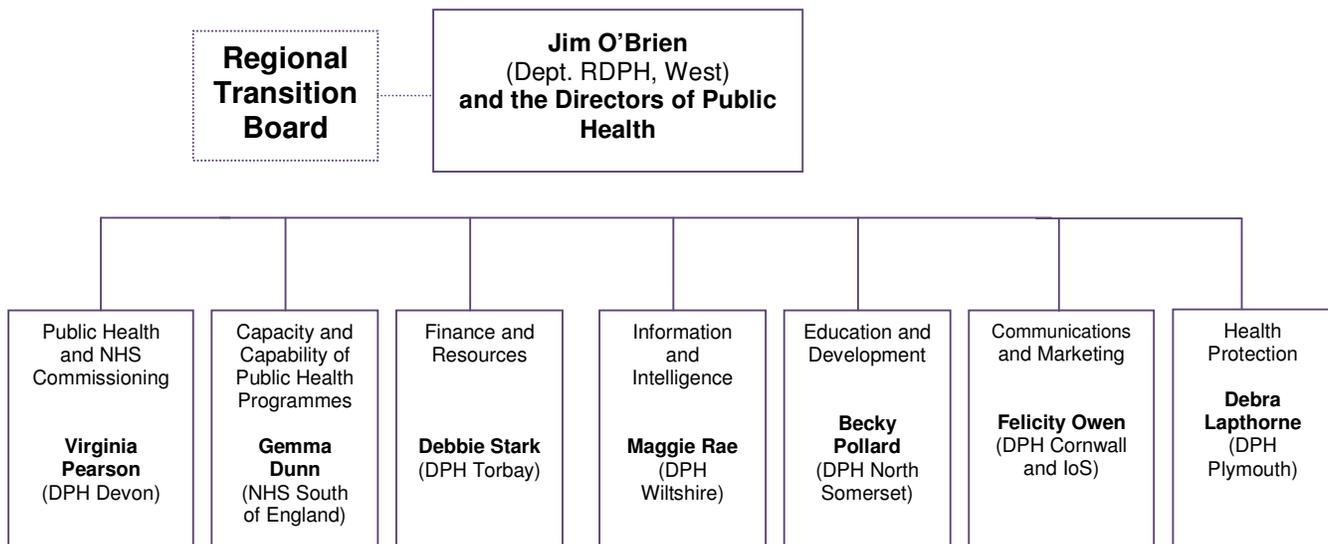
A draft structure outline of the Public Health England (PHE) People Transition Policy is due to be published this summer. It has recently been shared with senior managers in PHE sender organisations and with the PHE Partnership Working Group for any initial comments.

The Olympic torch is currently travelling around the country, starting in the South heading North and has been met with sunshine, lets hope it lasts!

Jim

If you would like to know more about Public Health England please follow the below link, I suggest reading the monthly PHE bulletin, <http://phbulletin.dh.gov.uk/>

STRUCTURE OF THE SOUTH WEST PUBLIC HEALTH TRANSITION GROUPS



HEALTH PROTECTION

The Torch relay has been celebrated nationally as having a successful start in the South West. The number of spectators lining the route and attending overnight stops have far exceeded expectations requiring NHS staff to have a dynamic approach to service provision and event planning. The Olympic Flame will come within 10 miles of 95% of people in the UK, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey. Please follow the link for more information about the torch relay route;
<http://www.london2012.com/torch-relay/route/>

Looking forward to the 2012 Games, the focus for the NHS across the South West is to ensure robust response capabilities are maintained throughout Games time and service provision continues as business as usual.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND NHS COMMISSIONING

Local public health teams are currently working with their Clinical Commissioning Groups and other NHS commissioners to describe how the core offer might be delivered and to ensure that capacity can be maintained and developed to deliver what will be required in the future structure. Public health transition plans are expected to clarify the process by which the provision of the core offer will be achieved.

A meeting of public health Primary Care Trust leads has been organised for Tuesday 3 July from 09:30 to 11:00 at Taunton Rugby Club. The ambition of the day is to share learning from the development events with Clinical Commissioning Groups and to describe how the 'core offer' will be delivered locally, as part of the transition planning process.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

A significant development in the future provision of communications and marketing support came on 14 May when the NHS Commissioning Board announced that the plan for a National Shared Communications Service for the NHS would not proceed to the next stage of planning. Read more on: <http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/2012/05/14/outcome-of-checkpoint-2/>

Over the next few weeks options will be explored for how best to configure NHS Communications Support alongside the emerging Commissioning Support Services. An alternative proposal or proposals will be announced in due course and implications for public health communications and marketing will be considered.

The NHS Commissioning Board is continuing to complete its top appointments. This includes the roles of Director of Insight, Director of Customer Relations and Director of Partnerships. Applications will come from pools of eligible staff from within Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and the Civil Service. More details on these roles can be found on: <http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/about/working-for/>

The NHS Commissioning Board has also published an update on its Board design including revised structure charts and details of emerging issues. Read more on: <http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/2012/05/03/design-changes/>

FINANCE AND RESOURCES

The Department of Health has requested that Primary Care Trusts submit any substantial changes to the 2010/11 finance return submitted in September 2011. This should be in the form of the original return with the changes clearly highlighted. The revised submission requires Primary Care Trust Director of Finance sign off, copied to Strategic Health Authority and submitted to the Department of Health by the 24 May 2012. This is to identify actual spend in 2010/11 only at this stage.

On the 8 May 2012, the Department of Health held a joint Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Public Health meeting on public health finance. The following key points were raised;

- The ACRA formula may be issued for 'engagement' at the end of May. Due to the pace of change, final allocations will not be published before October and the size of the quantum remains unclear
- Mandated services will see the most scrutiny and non-mandated may be the subject of health premium
- A key issue of concern is the rising demand on drugs, alcohol and sexual health budgets and loss of overall flexibility in Local Authorities compared to NHS to absorb fluctuations
- It will be important to be clear in Health and Wellbeing Boards where the benefits accrue from public health spend in Local Authorities
- There is an emerging issue about charging for leisure services. Local Authorities will become part of a 'comprehensive health service', with 'free at the point of deliver' provision of health improvement. This could be extended to cover anything that improves health such as leisure, allotments etc. The Department of Health are working to provide clear guidance but the principle is likely to be that where services were charged for before, they should continue to be chargeable.

EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Director of Public Health action learning sets continue to run across the South West. Led by Jim Hanbury of Exeter Consulting, these events are providing to be an invaluable forum for discussion and support.

Two cohorts have begun providing coaching, mentoring and training to support public health staff moving into Local Authorities in April 2013. Discussions are underway between participants, Directors of Public Health, Local Authorities and South West Councils to ensure a pragmatic approach is taken to allow access to the coaching pool for the public health community.

A transition survey for Public Health Specialty Registrars has been undertaken and will be considered by the sub-group at its next meeting to identify specific educational and development needs.

A regional Public Health Workforce Consultation event will take place on the 18 June, 10:00 – 13:00 at the Taunton Cricket Club. This is an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to consider the draft strategy and feed in their views to the national consultation process led by the Department of Health. If anyone is interested in attending please email, swtransition@dh.gsi.gov.uk. To download the consultation document please visit; <http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/consult-workforce/>

The sub-group is working with South West Councils to develop a two day programme for Local Authority Elected Members to run over the summer. For more information contact Fay Edwards, Head of Learning & Development, South West Councils, Fay.Edwards@SWCouncils.gov.uk

The 16th Public Health Residential School will be held on the 25 and 26 September 2012 at Dartington Hall in Totnes. Topics and suggestions for inspirational speakers and workshops should be emailed to rachel.juffs@dh.gsi.gov.uk

The Education and Development sub-group is developing its forward work plan for 2012/13. It will consider support requests arising from the consultation event in June. If anyone has any suggestions please email becky.pollard@nsomerset-pct.nhs.uk

USEFUL LINKS

Health and Social Care Act

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/royalassent/>

Towards a workforce strategy for the public health system

<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/consult-workforce/>

Building a People Transition Policy for Public Health England

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/02/phe-transition/>

Healthy lives, healthy people: Improving outcomes and supporting transparency

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132358

Creation of the new local public health system: Transition planning for Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts and Local Government Transition Guidance on Public Health Workforce Matters

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_132314