# Healthy Lives, Healthy People the new public health system June 2012

## **South West Public Health Transition Bulletin:**

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

As we progress into the summer we are starting to see more detail emerging on the new public health landscape and I know that Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities are continuing to work hard to implement the reform programme in line with their transition plans.

With Duncan Selbie coming into post on 2<sup>nd</sup> July we expect to see a structure for Public Health England senior posts released during July, alongside the Public Health England People Transition Policy. Discussions with sender organisations are ongoing with a high percentage of sender functions currently planning a 'lift and shift' transfer.

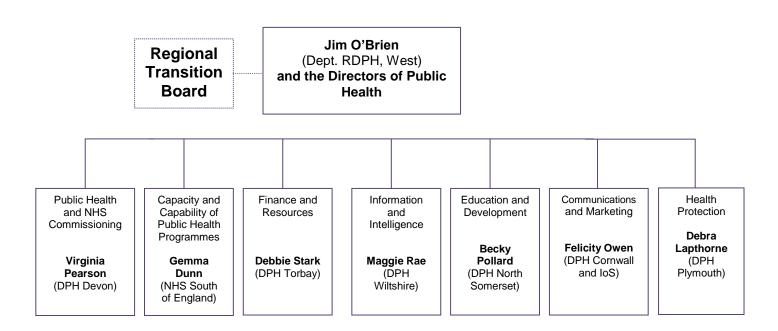
I was pleased to see a good attendance at the recent consultation event to collate a South West response on the *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Towards a Workforce Strategy for the Public Health System* Consultation paper. We heard from Becky Pollard, Chair of the South West Education and Development Sub Group and Alison Ross from the Public Health England Transition Team, both providing a useful update on the current status of workforce planning for the public health system. Feedback from the event was collated and submitted to the Department of Health and we expect to see the final Workforce Strategy in the autumn.

Finally, we will see the Olympic Torch return to the region on 11<sup>th</sup> July, shortly before returning to London for the opening ceremony for the Olympic Games. It's another chance to mark this unique event and fingers crossed we are again lucky with the weather!

Jim

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

# STRUCTURE OF THE SOUTH WEST PUBLIC HEALTH TRANSITION GROUPS



## **HEALTH PROTECTION**

Workshops are to be arranged in the early autumn for Directors of Public Health, PCT public health staff and health protection staff. The workshops will focus on health protection issues, the role of the Director of Public Health and their relationship to Public Health England in managing public health incidents. More information will be circulated in due course.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND NHS COMMISSIONING

The group is continuing its work to assist Public Health teams on the development of the Public Health core offer, with several examples of good practice being shared across the South West to assist teams in their planning.

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The NHS Commissioning Board Authority Chief Operating Officer Ian Dalton and Medical Director Professor Sir Bruce Keogh have shared the outcome of the work to agree the geographies that the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) local area teams will serve, as well as the outcome of related work to confirm the number, and coverage, of clinical senates. The plan put forward is for 27 Local Areas Teams across England. The potential communications functions of the NHS Commissioning Board, and the pattern of local support or delivery is yet to be confirmed. Read the briefing pack on: http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk/2012/06/20/local-teams-senates/

Public Health England is currently consulting on the potential pattern of its localised centres with the current proposal for 16 centres across England. Again, the potential communications functions with the organisations and its local centres is not yet clear. However, a description of the functions of the PHE centres includes reference to building a relationship with Local Authorities and providing professional support to maximise health improvement and ensuring the local NHS has access to high quality public health advice. The relative roles and responsibilities of PHE and local authorities for key communication tasks, campaigns etc is yet to be clarified.

The National Audit Office has recently published a report called: Central government's communication and engagement with local government. The review provides some interesting insights on the flow of communication between national departments and agencies and colleagues in local government. It includes the recognition that: "Now more than ever, with responsibilities such as public health moving to local government, the vital role of Local Authorities in the government's decentralisation agenda, and at the same time increased pressures from substantial staff reductions, it is essential that central government communicates and engages well with local government." Read more on: <a href="http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1213/central\_and\_local\_government.aspx">http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1213/central\_and\_local\_government.aspx</a>

# **FINANCE AND RESOURCES**

The Department of Health (DH) report published on 14<sup>th</sup> June provides the ACRA recommendations of how Public Health resources should be shared out between Local Authorities. It does not identify the total resource available for Local Authorities, only the relative share per Local Authority of the total sum. Decisions about the quantum will be made later in the year and will take account of other pressures in the health and care system.

The ACRA formula is based on the standardised mortality rate for those aged under 75 (SMR<75). Further suggestions from ACRA are that more work is needed on whether to weight for younger populations on sexual health spend, providing an element for fixed costs, taking into account non-resident population spend (particularly for open access sexual health services) and updating population estimates.

There is currently a wide variation in spend per capita across the country. The reference in the DH publication to the £2.2bn actual national spend in previous years alongside the new formula shares has caused some consternation. If the quantum is capped at the £2.2bn, areas that have been well funded for Public Health in recent years are likely to see a drop in funding to bring up the budgets of areas where increased investment has not been possible.

The DH report does however state that current Local Authority spending estimates will be protected and can expect a real terms growth in the coming year. There is an intention that there will not be a cut in resources for Local Authorities over target, but, subject to pace of change considerations, greater growth to those Local Authorities below formula. This implies an increase in the overall quantum. The Under Secretary for PH, Anne Milton, has sent a letter to MPs which reiterates this view. This would suggest that using the £2.2bn to calculate the value of the ACRA shares per Local Authority is not appropriate and does not provide a prediction of budget for the coming year.

### **EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

A regional Public Health Workforce Consultation event took place on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 10:00 – 13:00 at the Taunton Cricket Club. Over 45 people attended the event from a range of organisations and a report summarising their responses to the consultation questions has been submitted to the Department of Health. The report can be accessed at <a href="http://www.swpho.nhs.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=97024">http://www.swpho.nhs.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=97024</a>

Further learning workshops are planned regarding the development of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments across the region. They will focus on developing relationships with Healthwatch/LINKS organisations, using GP and primary care data and children and young people's issues. For further information contact Rosanne Sodzi on Rosanne.sodzi@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Plans to hold two events to explore health protection and emergency planning and resilience arrangements during and after transition are underway. These events will help attendees understand local plans, gaps and risks and will involve scenario planning exercises. For further information contact Janet McCulloch at the South West Health Protection Agency <a href="mailto:janet.McCulloch@hpa.org.uk">janet.McCulloch@hpa.org.uk</a>

Funding has been secured to run a leadership programme to support the development of public mental health across the region. Recruitment will be through the South West Regional Public Health Forum and local Directors of Public Health. Places will be offered in the first instance to public health staff, with additional places available to key partners, commissioners or local authority or VCS colleagues staff who have a strategic interest in or who are leading work on public mental health. For further information contact Christina Gray at <a href="mailto:Christina.Gray@bristol.nhs.uk">Christina.Gray@bristol.nhs.uk</a>

# PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT EVENT FOR NHS SOUTH OF ENGLAND

The above event is taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> July in Reading and is an opportunity for Local Authority Chief Executives, PCT Cluster Chief Executives and Directors of Public Health to meet colleagues from NHS South of England, Local Government and Public Health England, to discuss the public health vision, hear updates from across the system, and participate in discussions to inform local and national developments. Speakers include Duncan Selbie (Chief Executive, Public Health England), Prof. Yvonne Doyle and Prof. John Newton (NHS South of England), and Mrs Marianne Abley (Local Government Association). Further information is available from <a href="mailto:julia.rogers@southwest.nhs.uk">julia.rogers@southwest.nhs.uk</a>.

#### **USEFUL LINKS**

Health and Social Care Act <a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/royalassent/">http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/royalassent/</a>

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

Healthy lives, healthy people: Improving outcomes and supporting transparency <a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\_132358">http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\_132358</a>

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