

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Wellbeing Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	7 October 2011	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Update on transition of public health responsibilities from NHS B&NES to B&NES Council by 2013	
WARD:	ALL	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>  Public Health Transition Governance Plan		

### 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This paper provides a briefing on the move of public health responsibilities from NHS B&NES to B&NES Council from April 2013. An accompanying report outlines the processes being undertaken to manage this transition and the key governance arrangements.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

The Wellbeing Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the information contained in the briefing and accompanying report.
- 2.2 Comment on any areas of concern or potential opportunity.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Work has been carried out to identify the complete range of public health spend in every Primary Care Trust (PCT) in England. This has been in line with Department of Health guidance and templates. A detailed submission was sent to the South West Strategic Health Authority on 15 September. This was signed off by Chief Executives of both B&NES Council and PCT.
- 3.2 The Department of Health is collating this information to inform a national exercise that will decide 'shadow' budgets for the public health operations/functions of the successor bodies to NHS B&NES (i.e. The Local Authority, Public Health England and NHS commissioning bodies). These shadow budgets will be in place for April 2012 and it is anticipated that there will then be a further period of analysis prior to final sign-off between NHS B&NES and successor bodies in line with Department of Health requirements. Final responsibility of the council for public health duties will start in April 2013.

### **4 THE REPORT**

- 4.1 In 2010, the Department of Health set out changes to the public health system as part of the NHS White Paper. These included the creation of a national public health service, called Public Health England, and the transfer of local public health responsibilities from PCTs to local authorities.
- 4.2 Local authorities will take on their new public health responsibilities in April 2013, at which point they will also take responsibility for Directors of Public Health and their functions.
- 4.3 A Public Health Transition Group has been established which is chaired by the Strategic Director for People and Communities. The membership and Terms of Reference of this group are shown in Appendix 2 of the accompanying report.
- 4.4 This group is managing key processes during the transition including accountability, finance, staff, risks and performance.
- 4.5 The group reports on progress to the monthly Change Programme Board of the Council. An initial briefing report was provided for the Wellbeing Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel in March of this year.
- 4.6 It is proposed that 'Section 113' (Local Government Act, 1972) provisions will be used for the Director of Public Health, Assistant Director of Public Health and Assistant Director of Health Improvement to act as joint officers of the council and the Primary Care Trust from October 2011. This will enable them to contribute to the development of the new People and Communities Directorate. These arrangements underpin the partnership arrangements that currently exist between the PCT and the Council.
- 4.7 An NHS human resources framework is expected in Autumn of 2011 which will outline the process for staff transfers to local authorities. More specific details of the public health responsibilities within local authorities is also expected in Autumn 2011. For this reason, arrangements for secondment of the wider public health team will be considered from January 2012.

4.8 A future role of the local authority will be to provide public health advice to the Clinical Commissioning Group. The local public health team and Clinical Commissioning Group are working closely together to develop these roles and responsibilities for the future, alongside the still emerging national policy detail.

## 5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 A risk register of issues associated with the transition of public health responsibilities has been produced and is being managed by the Public Health Transition Group, with monthly reporting to the Change Programme Board.

## 6 EQUALITIES

6.1 Public health is an important advocate of equality issues in identifying needs of vulnerable and high risk groups and assessing current service provision and outcomes to measure progress between different groups, according to their needs. Ensuring a robust public health function is therefore an important requirement in promoting health equality at population level. The changes described in this paper are about a shift of strategic public health to the council from the NHS, rather than provision of a service, so there is no reason why there should be an impact on equalities issues.

## 7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Public engagement to discuss public health changes has happened through a Healthy Conversation event in February 2011 and a Local Involvement Network (LINK) meeting in April 2011.

## 8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

8.1 There is no specific decision being sought at this point in time.

## 9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Strategic Director for People and Communities has reviewed this report. The Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer have been copied into the report and will be asked to make formal comments as further detailed work is undertaken prior to any formal transfer of function.”

<b>Contact person</b>	Paul Scott, Assistant Director of Public Health
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report because they are already in the public domain</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	