

Partnership Board for Health and Wellbeing	
MEETING DATE:	8 February 2012
TITLE:	Public Health Transition Update and Planning Process
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 – The new public health system - summary of new policy documents, January 2012. Appendix 2 – Local public health transition - draft outline plan, January 2012	

Summary

Purpose

- 1 To brief the Partnership Board about new policies on the transition of public health responsibilities published by the Department of Health in December 2011 and January 2012.

To outline to the board the reporting requirements to the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) Cluster during 2011/12 for the transition assurance process. Include NHS aspect of the plan and timescales

Recommendation

- 2 The Partnership Board for Health and Wellbeing is asked to accept the report and comment on any concerns.

The Partnership Board is asked to receive a subsequent update in April 2012 following the submission of the public health transition assurance plan to NHS South of England.

Rationale

- 3 Key policies on public health transition have been published since the last Partnership Board meeting with new detail and implications.

The NHS Operating Framework, published in December 2011, signalled that by the end of March 2012, all PCT clusters should have an integrated plan for transition. This includes the requirement to have a public health transition plan in place.

This briefing paper keeps the board up to date, and provides an opportunity to steer the development of the public health transition assurance plan.

Other Options Considered

- 4 None

Financial Implications

- 5 Financial implications are being managed by the Public Health Transition Steering Group with input from finance colleagues of both the Council and the PCT Cluster.

DH have advised that the calculation of the funding allocation for the ring fenced grant is not likely to be issued until late in January. This has not been published to date, but a verbal update may be possible at the Partnership Board if it has been published by then.

Risk Management

- 6 Key risks from the transition are being managed through the Public Health Transition Steering Group and are reported to the Change Programme Board monthly. In reference to section 5 above, the possibility that the new local authority allocation for public health is not equal to the demands of the new responsibilities is on the public health transition risk register.

Equality issues

- 7 A key aim of public health is to reduce inequalities in health and social outcomes between different groups in the population. Securing a strong public health function will help identify the needs of vulnerable and high risk groups, help prioritise these in partnership strategies and support work to target interventions, improve outcomes and keep track of progress.

Legal Issues

- 8 None identified at this point

Engagement & Involvement

- 8 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.

The Report

Background

- 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.
- 2 The local process has been managed through a Public Health Transition Group, chaired by Ashley Ayre, Strategic Director of People and Communities. The membership and Terms of Reference of this group have been included in a previous report to the Partnership Board in 2011. This group is managing key processes including accountability, finance, staff, risks and performance. The group reports on progress to the monthly Change Programme Board of the Council. Updates have also recently been provided to the PCT Board and the Wellbeing Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel of the Council.

New policy developments

- 3 During December 2011 and January 2012, a large number of policy updates were published by the Department of Health. These included:
 - Public Health in Local Government, including policies on:
 - commissioning responsibilities
 - public health advice to NHS Commissioners
 - the role of the Director of Public Health
 - Public Health Human Resources Concordat
 - The Operating Model for Public Health England
 - Public health transition planning support for primary care trusts and local authorities
 - The public health outcomes framework.

A summary of key issues arising from these policy papers is provided in Appendix 1.

We are still awaiting a key paper, expected in January 2012 but not yet published:

- Financial allocations (including the shadow 2012/13 local authority budget for public health work)

Key tasks to take forward and associated timetables

NHS South of England and the Department of Health South West have requested two planning submissions from PCT Clusters.

- By 27 January 2012, PCT Clusters should have submitted to the SHA Cluster an outline public health transition plan.
- By 5 April 2012, PCT Clusters should have submitted a final public health transition plan to cover the full process of transition in the PCT / local authority area.

In order to support consistent transition plans, the Department of Health have published a helpful checklist for local use. A copy of this has been used to develop a draft outline plan which is provided in Appendix 2. A more detailed and completed plan will form the basis of the B&NES submission in April 2012.

This public health process sits alongside the planning process for other functions in the PCT Cluster. NHS South of England has requested that PCT Clusters submit their Annual Operating Plan for 2012-13 as follows:

- First submission - 13th January 2012
- Second Submission - 17th February 2012
- Final Submission - 16th March 2012

The Annual Operating Plan includes a dedicated section on public health transition and so we will work closely with our NHS colleagues to integrate the dedicated public health transition assurance plan mentioned above with the broader PCT Cluster Operating Plan submission.

Governance of the planning process

The above processes will be taken forward under the governance of the Public Health Transition Group, chaired by Ashley Ayre. The public health transition plan will be circulated for sign off from the Chief Executives of the Council and the PCT well in advance of 5 April.

An update on the final submitted plan will be provided to the Partnership Board in April 2012. This will provide an agreed framework for local public health transition arrangements for 2012/13 and beyond.

Recommendations

- 4 The Partnership Board for Health and Wellbeing is asked to accept the report and comment on any concerns.
- 5 The Partnership Board is asked to receive a subsequent update in April 2012.

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Background papers	None

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