

Meeting Note: East Midlands Public Health and Local Government Transition Network - 10th Nov

This group meets regularly to support the transition of public health to local government. It is chaired by David Walker, Regional Director of Public Health. Secretariat support is provided by the Directorate of Public Health and Social Care East Midlands. ADASS, ADCS, upper tier and second tier Local Authorities are all represented.

This meeting note is based upon the information provided at the 10th November meeting. Transition is moving very rapidly and it is likely that some of this information will change quickly.

National Update

David Walker summarised the imminent publication of major policy papers on transition. The due dates summarised below are as understood at 10th November but may be subject to change:

- NHS Operating Framework - due end November
- Local Government Paper - due in first/second week of December
- Operating Model for PHE (Public Health England) - due mid-December
- Confirmation of status of PHE as an Executive Agency - due in the next few weeks.
- Public Health Outcomes Framework - nearly completed. Due in the next few weeks
- Financial allocations for LAs – information due mid-December
- HR Concordat setting out high-level principles of how people will move from PCTs to LAs – due any time and possibly next week. This will be followed by a Q&As document which will contain much more detail - around 1 week later. Detailed HR technical guidance for local government is due at/around the end of January. There will be a requirement for PCTs to produce detailed transition plans for public health. These will be for SHA sign-off but will need to be locally negotiated and agreed by PCTs and LAs. A template will be provided. A first draft is likely to be required by the end of January. It is expected that the plans will vary to reflect local determination.
- Workforce Strategy setting out the future of PH (Public Health) training - due in early January as a consultation document.
- Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) are now clustered. We are clustered with West Mids and East of England.

Regional Progress and issues arising

There was a vast amount of information provided verbally under the Workstream Updates agenda item. A synopsis of progress which could be more widely and easily disseminated was requested and agreed - to include achievements and "wicked issues". For now though, the key points included:

- HealthWatch
Health colleagues reported that a lot of work is needed on HealthWatch. Most LINKS are hosted bodies but there will be a requirement for HealthWatch to form separate corporate bodies. LAs were urged not to "disinvest" in HealthWatch. The meeting also noted that there is a potential conflict of interest arising from HealthWatch being funded by local government.

- **Intelligence**
Funding for Public Health Observatories has been confirmed for 2012/13 at or close to the current level of funding. The meeting noted the need to anticipate the increasing requirement for health *and care* intelligence. It was also noted that work is required with ONS to allow local government access to health data which is not part of the current licence agreement.
- **Resilience and emergency planning**
Transition represents an opportunity to better align work on resilience and emergency planning, focusing on the Local Resilience Forum which should provide the building block for future developments.
- **Health and Well-Being Boards**
There was perceived to be good momentum in the East Midlands. A "Suggestions for Local Conversations" paper is expected to be available to local government soon to support the development of joint/integrated commissioning.
- **Public Health training**
A key point to note is that all LA placements for Public Health Registrars will have to be approved by the GMC - it is not simply a question of transferring PCT training placements to local government. Work is underway to manage this process.
- **Emerging models for PH delivery**
Derby City and Derbyshire County gave a presentation summarising their approaches. To note:
 - Links to Overview and Scrutiny, and the relationship to the county's and districts' scrutiny roles, is very complex.
 - Derby City explained how their model links to their LSP. Many districts have their own LSPs (and LSP task groups) so links need to be established right along the delivery chain.

Events and communication

Derek Walker proposed an event for January to take stock of all of the forthcoming papers and developments (EMC will circulate this date once it is confirmed). Given that, it was agreed to postpone the planned 20th Dec meeting of the Public Health and Local Government Transition Network.

The PHE Transition Team is embarking on a series of regional visits with local authority and public health leadership to discuss the public health reforms. Ruth Hussey and Anita Marsland, Managing Director for Transition, PHE will be in the East Midlands on 12th December.

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