

Appendix A

Public Health Funding Settlement 2013/14

On the day briefing

10 January 2013



This briefing gives the LGA's views on today's public health funding settlement. A breakdown of funding for all local authorities and accompanying documents can be found [here](#).

Key Announcements

- The Government confirmed that total public health spending in 2013-14 will be set at £2.66bn and in 2014-15 will be £2.79bn. This is an increase on the initial baseline estimates which were £2.2 billion for 2013/14.
- A commitment that no area will be worse off than they are at present.
- Councils will receive two years of above inflation increases in their public health budgets.
- The below figures are based on the Department of Health's estimate of health spending in 2012/13:
 - Average 5.5% increase in funding in 2013/14 equivalent to a 3.5% increase in real terms.
 - Average 5% increase in funding in 2014/15 equivalent to a 3% increase in real terms.
 - The increases will vary between areas: minimum increase 2.8% and a maximum increase 10%.
 - 55 Local Authorities will get a 10% increase in 2013/14 and 71 will get a 2.8% increase.
 - 45 local Authorities will get a 10% increase in 2014/15 and 73 local authorities will get an increase of 2.8%.
- Government has agreed that if any mistakes or unforeseen problems are identified (and are strongly evidenced) they can be addressed in year with extra funding.
- The Department of Health is revisiting its proposed formula for the distribution of funding between councils, which is due to come into force in 2015/16.

LGA Response

- It is pleasing that the sector's campaigning has resulted in an increase in the amount of funding councils will receive from central government. Although the final allocations have been a long time coming and it is only 3 months to the start of the next financial year, the Department of Health has clearly listened to our genuine concerns around the quantum of funding for public health.

For further information please contact Kirsty Ivanoski-Nichol at kirsty.ivanoski-nichol@local.gov.uk 02076643125

Briefing

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ
Email info@local.gov.uk
Tel 020 7664 3000 Fax 020 7664 3030
Information centre 020 7664 3131 www.local.gov.uk

- We were pleased with the Department's decision to protect real terms funding for 2013-14 and 2014-15. Local authorities are eager to pick up the mantle of public health but we must be given the right resources to do so. Only then can councils truly be at the forefront of tackling the social factors that contribute to poor health and providing services that help people to live long and healthy lives.
- In October last year the Local Government Association conducted a survey which showed a positive picture for the transfer of public health services. However, the biggest concern among councils was around the delay on the final funding decision. Today's announcement will give councils confidence that they have the money they need, to put plans in place to deliver on their statutory responsibilities for public health.
- The LGA welcomes the decision to give councils two year budgets rather than the planned one year budget as this will ensure greater certainty of funding for longer periods to enable local authorities to make strategic decisions in commissioning public health services.
- There are outstanding concerns over the individual allocations for each council but we are pleased that, where significant unforeseen funding issues appear, the Department of Health has agreed to work with the local authorities in question and, where there is sufficient evidence, provide additional funding through the relevant NHS Commissioning Board.
- We have consistently maintained that local government can only fulfil the new duties if it is adequately resourced to do so. We are pleased therefore that the government has listened to councils' concerns about the proposed future funding formula. We are glad the Government has agreed that funding cannot be based solely on historic data that is no longer fit for purpose. It is right that funding should be based on an appropriate measure of health need, but this must not be considered in isolation.
- The LGA welcomes the steps that the department has taken to engage with local authorities on its proposed approach to the funding of public health responsibilities. We will continue to work to ensure decisions in Whitehall enable local authorities' full potential to improve the public health outcomes of their residents is realised.
- Nevertheless these are profound and far-reaching reforms, which will take time to bed in. We need to look at the impact of the changes on the ground, and it is vitally important that this dialogue continues to address challenges which arise over the coming months and years, and to ensure sufficient ongoing funding to ensure all local authorities can continue to meet their new public health responsibilities beyond 2014/15.