

Public Health Transformation: One Year On

Summary

Members will hear from Professor Kevin Fenton, Executive Director of Health and Wellbeing at Public Health England on the new role for local government in the leadership of public health, its relationship with Public Health England, the launch of a national conversation about health inequalities and the development of a shared Framework for Health and Wellbeing.

Purpose

Responsibility for public health transferred to local government in April 2013. The anniversary presents an opportunity to reflect on and assess the impact of public health in local government and the public health challenges we face as a nation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the presentation and raise issues from a local government perspective.

Action

As directed by the Councillors' Forum.

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Public Health Transformation: One Year On

Background

1. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 significantly extended the powers and duties of local government in leadership of public health. The transfer of local public health services from primary care trusts to local government, coupled with the creation of Health and Wellbeing Boards, is seen as one of the most significant changes to the health and wellbeing landscape in a generation.
2. Public health made the formal transfer to local government in April 2013, and in the subsequent months great strides have been made to tackle the wider social and economic determinants of poor health.
3. Councils have universally expressed the view that public health had been enthusiastically welcomed by the politicians, managers and workers of the council who were keen to be involved in health improvement. If there were any pockets of resistance, where people had not yet made the links between health and wider determinants, these were small. Directors of public health were equally enthusiastic about the opportunities presented by working in a local authority.
4. Moving forward the Department of Health has confirmed that responsibilities for the commissioning of public health responsibilities for 0-5 year olds will transfer from NHS England to local government on 1 October 2015.
5. The LGA will continue to make the case that our current health and social care system is unsustainable and will buckle under the weight of demand unless we invest our planning and service provision to promote healthy choices, prevent sickness and intervene early to minimise the need for costly hospital treatment.
6. The LGA continues to work with the local government sector to make a strong case for adequate funding to carry out our new public health functions and to demonstrate to the Government and associated health agencies the importance of independence and the avoidance of top-down performance management in favour of a sector-led improvement approach.

Public Health England's National Health and Wellbeing priorities for 2014/15

7. Professor Fenton will share with the forum the emerging priorities for PHE Health and Wellbeing directorate.
8. PHE is launching a national conversation about health inequalities to better understand the English public's perception and experience. The idea of the national conversation is that through listening to communities across the country, we will be able to better understand the public's view of these health inequalities, how they are affected by them and hear their suggestions for what might help narrow the gap. The project will involve

speaking with public health professionals and community leaders and holding a series of workshops with members of the public to gain valuable insight into how people are living now.

9. The workshops will explore local solutions that may help to mitigate inequalities and this knowledge will be collated for dissemination via a number of means both locally and nationally. Knowledge gained from running the workshops and listening to the views of the public will be brought together in a toolkit that will be available for local authorities and others wishing to run similar projects. At the same time, a national event will bring together this learning to inform national bodies and leaders of the public's views and our ongoing work.

PHE Health and Wellbeing Framework

10. The Health and Wellbeing Framework is a document which PHE will publish during the summer in 2014. Its aim is to utilise the power which PHE has as a new national body for public health to shift the national debate from 'sickness services' to prevention and promoting health and wellbeing.
11. The Framework will not achieve anything by itself, but we do hope it will mark the start of a broader conversation around health and wellbeing and start to galvanise action. We want to create an ongoing movement for health, bringing in all key decision makers.
12. The Framework will also be available online, with key messages articulated in a number of ways for the varied audiences that the document intends to reach.
13. The Framework will consist of four main sections:
 - 13.1. Where are we now in terms of health?
 - 13.1.1 An accessible and engaging narrative of the current state of the public's health, which inspires action.
 - 13.1.2 This will include a description of the main causes of ill-health and death in England today – a 'JSNA for England'.
 - 13.2. How is health created?
 - 13.2.1 A definition of what we mean by 'health' and a visual model of how different factors influence Health and Wellbeing in England.
 - 13.2.2 We will also show how the way in which health is created results in significant health inequalities.
 - 13.3. Where are we heading with regards to health outcomes?
 - 13.3.1 A piece of modelling work predicting future possible states for the nation's health in different scenario

13.4. What can we do to ensure our health improves?

- 13.4.1. A menu of effective interventions which can be carried out by key decision makers to improve the public's health and reduce health inequalities
- 13.4.2. This will build on NICE guidance, but will also include ideas for action which do not yet meet the NICE standard of evidence.

Biography

Professor Kevin A. Fenton MD, PhD, FFPH
Executive Director for Health and Wellbeing, Public Health England



Professor Kevin Fenton, MD, PhD, FFPH, is the Public Health England Executive Director for Health and Wellbeing. In this role he oversees PHE's national prevention programmes including screening for cancer and other conditions, Health Checks, national health marketing campaigns, public mental health, and a range of wellbeing programmes for infants, youth, adults and older adults. The Health and Wellbeing Directorate also leads PHE's Health Equity portfolio with a range of programmes and activities focused on addressing the social determinants of health, and promoting settings-based approaches to health improvement.

Professor Fenton was previously the director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a position he held for seven years from November 2005. He also served as chief of CDC's National Syphilis Elimination Effort and has worked in research, epidemiology, and the prevention of HIV and other STDs since 1995. Previously he was the director of the HIV and STI Department at the United Kingdom's Health Protection Agency.

He attended medical school in Jamaica, obtained his master's in public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and PhD in Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the University College London. He has authored or co-authored more than 250 peer-reviewed scientific articles and policy reports. He is a speaker in great demand and speaks Spanish and French.