

Summary of Public Health activities – 2014/15

There are 5 mandated Public Health functions that the Council is required to deliver under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. These are:

1. Community Sexual Health Services
2. Health checks
3. The National Child Measurement Programme for Children in Reception and Yr6
4. Ensuring arrangements are in place to protect the public.
5. Providing Public Health support for the local CCG.

1. **Community Sexual Health Services** are currently provided by Virgin Healthcare on a Tees wide contract valued at £4.2m until 31st March 2016. The HWB agreed earlier this year to procure the next contract on a Tees wide basis and Stockton is the lead authority for this procurement.
2. **Health Checks** are offered to all people aged 40 to 74 who do not have an existing cardiovascular condition. They are designed to detect increased risk factors for cardiovascular disease at an early stage to enable early intervention thus reducing the risk of strokes and heart attacks. Our health check service is run by the Tees Public Health Shared Service as this is something that all the authorities have to do and there are efficiencies by doing it in this manner. Previously we were concerned that the uptake was not as high in our most disadvantaged communities as other parts of the Borough. Having altered the payment scheme for GPs it seems that we have now solved this problem and have made significant progress in the delivery of health checks especially in the most disadvantaged parts of the Borough. We have also extended the health check programme to include lung health checks with a particular focus on detecting undiagnosed Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and this has been particularly successful in targeting the most vulnerable smokers in our most disadvantaged areas.
3. **National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)** is a programme to measure the height and weight of all children in reception and year 6 on an annual basis. The measurement programme is mandated but support or intervention for children who are identified as significantly overweight is not mandatory. The Health and Wellbeing Board took the decision to cease the previous adult focused health trainer service and commissioned a new family weight management service for children who are identified with significant weight problems through the NCMP programme. The contract was won by MoreLife who work alongside the school nursing service. MoreLife have been to talk about their service to the Children and Young People's Partnership earlier in the year.
4. **Ensuring Arrangements are in Place to Protect the Public** is fulfilled through close working with Public Health England and NHS England. The commissioning and delivery of screening and immunisation programmes are the responsibility of NHS England and it is the role of the DPH to ensure they have appropriate arrangements in place that are delivering effective screening and immunisation programmes. With regard to childhood immunisations this is working very effectively as the current immunisation rates are the best for many years. Public Health England provides excellent support for dealing with

outbreaks of any nature and in support of our preparation for the health aspects of emergency plans. Earlier this year there was a large Salmonella outbreak at the Anson Farm Pub in Thornaby with over 40 reported cases and Public Health England worked very effectively with our local Environmental Health Officers to handle the outbreak. During the summer there was a serious E-Coli outbreak at a butcher's shop in Billingham resulting in 12 cases, some of whom were taken critically ill but who are now thankfully recovering. Again Public Health England worked very closely with our local EHOs to protect the public and resolve the outbreak. It is also Public Health responsibility to ensure emergency plans are in place for the Authority and this is something we regularly exercise with other agencies.

5. **Providing Public Health support for the local CCG** - There is much debate between Public Health teams and CCGs as to what appropriate support actually means, we simply work very closely with our CCG colleagues and support their work through a number of people in the Public Health team led by a Public Health Consultant. Most often this is actually on our shared agendas around Public Health for example reducing harm through misuse of alcohol, lung health checks and reducing variability with equality of primary care.

The mandated functions are only a small part of the activity of the Public Health department. The DPH report for 2014/15 was focused on health inequalities in the Borough and that is where we have realigned much of the department's work. Areas of particularly high activity for the team therefore include:

- Drug and alcohol treatment services
- Tobacco control
- Oral health in children
- Diet and obesity
- Sexual Health
- Mental health including self-harm and suicide
- Warm homes
- Risk taking behaviours

The attached document gives the current Child Health profiles.

The presentation for Scrutiny Committee Members will take them through the latest health profile published in 2015 and will be related to the issues highlighted in this summary.

Peter Kelly
Director of Public Health