

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee	25th September 2012
Subject: Update on the transition of public health functions to the City of London Corporation	Public
Report of: Vicky Hobart, Public Health Consultant (NHS North East London and City) and co-Chair City Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board	For Information
Ward (if appropriate): All	
<u>Summary</u>	
<p>This report seeks to update members on progress in the transition of responsibility for public health from the NHS to the City of London Corporation from 1st April 2013. In particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appointment of a Director of Public Health 2. Publication of shadow public health grant allocation, and consultation on the proposed formula for future public health grant allocations 3. Health and Wellbeing Board, and new strategy 4. Joint strategic needs assessment 5. Transition programme 6. Transfer of commissioning responsibilities, including emergency planning and public health advice to NHS commissioners 7. Financial and risk implications 	
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Members receive the report for information, and consider reviewing progress in light of the 2013/14 public health grant allocation, once published. 	

Main Report

Background

1. The Health and Social Care Act 2012¹ signalled the transfer of responsibility for Public Health from the NHS to Local Authorities, the NHS Commissioning Board, Public Health England and Clinical

¹ Health and Social Care Act (2012), www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents/enacted

Commission Groups from 1st April 2013. The vision for the new public health system was set out in 'Healthy People, Healthy Lives'. The impacts of guidance from Government relating to Public Health in the City of London were discussed at Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 17th February 2012.

2. The City of London Corporation is considering the strategic changes to delivery of the public health function that will need to take place in order for it to improve the health of its communities, coordinate efforts to protect the public's health and wellbeing, and ensure health services effectively promote population health.

Current Position

3. The City of London will appoint a Director of Public Health. The appointment will be undertaken in collaboration with Public Health England, as required. Options for this post are being developed.
4. The City of London Corporation will receive a Public Health grant from April 2013. A shadow allocation of £1.4 million was published on February 7th 2012, based on historic levels of spend. This was the second highest allocation per head of resident population in the country- reflecting the levels of spend in Hackney, the second most deprived borough in the Country.
5. Subsequently, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding"² set out proposals for the formula on which future public health grant allocations will be made. Notably for the City of London, the proposals do not include consideration of the public health needs arising from the non-resident population (e.g. commuters) and would lead to a significant reduction in the size of Public Health grant if implemented as is. The response to the consultation from the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board is attached at Appendix A.
6. "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding"³ reiterated that '*we have committed that the amount allocated to local authorities for 2013-14 will not fall below these (February 7th 2012) estimates in real terms, other than in exceptional circumstances*'. The actual grant allocation is expected by the New Year, and therefore the current working assumption is that the grant will be at least £1.4m.
7. The City of London Health and Wellbeing Board will oversee public health across the City of London Corporation. This Board currently meets in shadow form, and is developing the first health and well being strategy for the City of London. One of the key tasks of the Board from April 2013 will

² Department of Health (2012) Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding

³ Department of Health (2012) Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update on Public Health Funding

be to oversee progress in the City of London against the outcomes set out in the new national public health outcomes framework (as well as the new NHS, adult social care and children's outcome frameworks).

8. The City of London Corporation will be required to produce an up to date Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Historically this has been produced as the City and Hackney health and wellbeing profile. The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board has requested that a JSNA handy guide is produced in 2012/13 for the City, incorporating the outcomes of recent research on the needs of City workers and alcohol.
9. The Director of Children and Community Services leads for the City of London on a recently established executive Health Transition Programme Board for City and Hackney. The Board has been established to steer the transition from the NHS to the City of London Corporation and London Borough of Hackney, given that the current NHS (primary care trust) budget is aggregated for the two localities, and from April 2012 the Clinical Commissioning Group budget for healthcare services will continue to be aggregated.
10. The Health Transition Programme Board has established a Public Health Strategy and Commissioning sub group, to work through the commissioning and procurement issues relating to those public health services and functions that will transfer to local authorities from April 2013. The group will make recommendations on;
 - Whether the City of London and Hackney commission jointly or separately,
 - Whether current public health services transfer as is, or require review.
 - Priorities for 2013/13 commissioning intentions.
 - How the requirement for local authority public health teams to provide public health advice to NHS commissioners will be met.

The final decisions on these arrangements remain with the City of London Corporation and Hackney Council.

11. The City of London Corporation will be responsible for ensuring that there are plans in place to protect the health of the population, including public health, input to emergency planning arrangements, outbreak control, screening and immunisation. The City of London Corporation already holds responsibility for Port Health in London, and an initial meeting has been held between the Directors of the Health Protection Unit, Port Health and Public Protection, Children and Community Services, and Public Health to scope issues and risks.

12. A public health transition risk log is monitored at the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. Key risks identified to date include: uncertainty around funding, loss of key staff, loss of goodwill impacting on partnership working, and lack of clarity on the interface between different organisations delivering public health functions (for example, with the NHS commissioning board for screening and immunisation).

Conclusion

13. Plans to transfer Public Health responsibilities from the NHS to the City of London are progressing, and will be finalised once the 2013/14 public health grant is announced.

Background Papers:

1. 17th February 2012: Impacts of recent government guidance relating to public health (Farrah Meherali, Healthy City Development Manager, Children and Community Services)
2. 11th February and 22nd February 2011: Impacts of recent government legislation relating to health and adult social care (Sarah Greenwood, Policy and Communications Manager, Children and Community Services)

Appendices

1. City of London Corporation response to 'Healthy people, healthy lives: Update on Public Health Funding (August 2012)

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