

## DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### 1. General

- a. The Director of Public Health (DPH) is a statutory chief officer of the Council who is accountable for the delivery of the authority's public health duties. The DPH is the principal adviser on all health matters to elected members and officers, with a leadership role spanning all three domains of public health - health improvement, health protection and healthcare public health.
- b. In general the statutory responsibilities of the DPH are designed to match exactly the corporate public health duties of the Local Authority. The DPH has delegated authority for those matters which they are required to be responsible for under the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social care Act 2012).

### 2. Functions

Section 73A(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006 Act, gives the Director of Public Health responsibility for:

- a. all of the Local Authority's duties to take steps to improve public health
  - b. any of the Secretary of State's public health protection or health improvement functions that s/he delegates to local authorities, either by arrangement or under regulations – these include services mandated by regulations made under section 6C of the 2006 Act, inserted by section 18 of the 2012 Act, including:
    - i. appropriate access to sexual health services
    - ii. plans in place to protect the health of the population
    - iii. ensure NHS Commissioners received the public health advice they need
    - iv. The National Child Measurement Programme
    - v. The NHS Health Check Assessment
    - vi. Elements of the Healthy Child Programme
    - vii. Duty to produce an annual report on the health of the population.
    - viii. exercising their local authority's functions in planning for, and responding to, emergencies that present a risk to public health
    - ix. co-operating with the police, the probation service and the prison service to assess the risks posed by violent or sexual offenders such other public health functions as the Secretary of State specifies
3. As well as the core functions described above, the Acts and regulations give the DPH other specific responsibilities:
- a. for the local authority's public health response as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003, such as making representations about licensing applications;
  - b. if the local authority provides or commissions a maternity or child health clinic, then regulations made under section 73A(1) will also give the DPH

responsibility for providing Healthy Start vitamins (a function conferred on local authorities by the Healthy Start and Welfare Food Regulations 2005 as amended)

- c. To be a member of the local health and wellbeing board
4. The Director of Public Health will also:
- a. be the person who elected members and senior officers look to for leadership, expertise and advice on a range of issues, from outbreaks of disease and emergency preparedness through to improving local people's health and concerns around access to health services.
  - b. know how to improve the population's health by understanding the factors that determine health and ill health, how to change behaviour and promote both health and wellbeing in ways that reduce inequalities in health.
  - c. provide the public with expert, objective advice on health matters which promote action across the life course, working together with local authority colleagues such as the director of children's services and the director of adult social services, and with NHS colleagues.
  - d. work through local resilience fora to ensure effective and tested plans are in place for the wider health sector to protect the local population from risks to public health work with local criminal justice partners and police and crime commissioners to promote safer communities.
  - e. work with wider civil society to engage local partners in fostering improved health and wellbeing.
  - f. be an active member of the health and wellbeing board, advising on and contributing to the development of joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies, and commission appropriate services accordingly
  - g. take responsibility for the management of their authority's public health services, with professional responsibility and accountability for their effectiveness, availability and value for money
  - h. play a full part in their authority's action to meet the needs of vulnerable children, for example by linking effectively with the Local Safeguarding Children Board
  - i. contribute to and influence the work of NHS commissioners, ensuring a whole system approach across the public sector.
5. The Director of Public Health is also responsible for non-mandatory public health services which allow for commissioning and delivery at a local level:
- a. Tobacco Control
  - b. Increasing physical activity
  - c. Dental public health services
  - d. Behavioural and lifestyle campaigns to prevent cancer and long term conditions
  - e. Comprehensive sexual health services
  - f. Promotion of community safety, violence prevention and response
  - g. Alcohol and drug misuse services
  - h. Assessment and lifestyle interventions as part of the NHS Health Checks programme
  - i. Accidental injury prevention
  - j. Local initiatives for workplace health

- k. Local initiatives to reduce excess deaths due to seasonal mortality
- l. Local initiatives to tackle social exclusion
- m. Obesity and community nutrition
- n. Public mental health services
- o. Population level interventions to reduce birth defects
- p. Supporting, reviewing and challenging key public health funded services  
e.g. immunization programmes
- q. Health protection, incidents and emergencies