

**Report to Health and Wellbeing Board**

**13 July 2016**

**Agenda Item: 8**

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**2015/16 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF WORK OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides information on the work of the Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health Committee in 2015/16. It describes the work of the Public Health department and outlines key Committee decisions and performance monitoring activities to ensure the Council meets its Public Health responsibilities.

**Information and Advice**

**Background**

1. Overall, the Public Health function encompasses:
  - 1.1. Health Improvement: Helping people to live healthy lives, to make healthy choices and reducing health inequalities.
  - 1.2. Health Protection: Ensuring the population's health is protected from major incidents and other threats, such as infectious diseases and environmental hazards.
  - 1.3. Healthcare public health and preventing premature mortality: Through effective service commissioning, reduce the numbers of people living with preventable ill health and of people dying prematurely, while reducing the inequalities gap between communities.
2. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for Public Health from the NHS to local authorities in April 2013. The County Council was given responsibility for five mandated functions, along with the responsibility to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and a Health and Wellbeing Strategy, led through a local Health and Wellbeing Board.
3. The five mandated functions are NHS Health Check assessments; open access to sexual health services; the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP); management of health protection incidents, outbreaks and emergencies (which could include infectious disease,

environmental hazards and extreme weather events); and the provision of Public Health advice to NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

4. As well as these five functions, the Council directly commissions a range of Public Health services and is responsible for a number of other policy areas that require wide influence across the health and wellbeing system. Services include: tobacco control (including combating illicit tobacco); combating substance misuse; services around obesity / nutrition; cancer prevention; oral health / fluoridation; workplace health; PH aspects of community safety; violence prevention (including domestic violence and abuse); infection control and public mental health. There are also a number of services related to children's public health, such as prevention of birth defects, children's public health programmes for ages 0-19, and prevention of avoidable injuries. Many of these services were already in place prior to 2013 and existing contract arrangements were novated over to the County Council. In 2015/16 the range of children's public health services was expanded with the inward transfer of health visiting and the Family Nurse Partnership Programme from the NHS to the Council starting on 1 October 2015.
5. The County Council was provided with a ring-fenced Public Health grant, worth £39,338,497 in total during 2015/16, to meet the costs of the Public Health function.

### **The role of the Public Health Committee**

6. The County Council operates a Committee structure to carry out its duties, with an appropriate constitution to allow open and transparent decision making. Each Committee has a defined area of responsibility and takes decisions related to that area. The Public Health Committee is the primary decision-making body of the County Council with respect to the Public Health function. Its main duties are as follows:
  - 6.1. To ensure that the Public Health responsibilities of the County Council are delivered.
  - 6.2. To ensure that the Public Health grant is used effectively and for the purposes for which it has been provided.
  - 6.3. To oversee performance in the delivery of the Public Health responsibilities of the County Council.

### **Relationship with the Health & Wellbeing Board**

7. The Health and Wellbeing Board has core statutory duties as follows:
  - 7.1. To prepare and publish a joint strategic needs assessment to identify local needs
  - 7.2. To prepare and publish a health & well-being strategy to lead improvements in health and wellbeing for the population based on local needs
  - 7.3. To promote and encourage integrated working to deliver changes at a local level
8. The Board takes a very wide view of the health and wellbeing of Nottinghamshire and directs an implementation plan to improve this, covering a wide range of partners and functions.
9. Public Health is a core component of improving health and wellbeing, however the internal Public Health responsibilities of the County Council are a subsection of the entire work of the Board. By illustration, the delivery of Public Health functions by the County Council is a significant element of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Nottinghamshire, but it is not the only element.

10. The co-dependence means that work of the Health and Wellbeing Board interfaces with the Public Health Committee but is separate to it. Similarly the work of the Health & Wellbeing Board interfaces with other Council Committees that consider health and wellbeing policies, such as the Adult Social Care Committee and Children & Young People's Committee. It also interfaces with Clinical Commissioning Groups governing bodies and District / Borough Council committees. Decision making responsibilities and resources are retained in the member organisations and relevant decision-making forum.

### **Delivery of the Public Health Committee's duties in 2015/16**

11. The Public Health Committee maintains an active work programme that is reviewed at each meeting. The Committee held 6 scheduled meetings and one extra-ordinary meeting to fulfil its duties in 2015/16. This activity is summarised as follows:

#### ***Ensuring that the Public Health responsibilities of the County Council are delivered***

- 11.1. The Committee approved the publication of the independent Director of Public Health annual report.
- 11.2. With respect to the five mandated functions, the Committee considered commissioning plans for the IT element of the NHS Health Check programme and approved award of contract for integrated sexual health services.
- 11.3. In terms of commissioned services, the Committee approved the award of contracts for tobacco control, domestic violence and abuse, and oral health promotion services. It also approved commissioning plans and timeframes for children's public health services.
- 11.4. The Committee received several presentations on aspects of Public Health services, from the new provider for obesity and weight management services, from the County Council Children's and Families Department related to young people's substance misuse services, and on delivery of NHS Health Checks.

#### ***Ensuring that the Public Health grant is used effectively and for the purposes for which it has been provided:***

- 11.5. The Committee set budget envelopes for re-procurements as part of its approval of the Procurement Plan for 2015/16.
- 11.6. The Committee received information about the Council services against which Public Health grant had been realigned, to confirm that the realigned funds were being spent on services that contributed to Public Health outcomes and that this work was proceeding to budget and timeframe.

#### ***Overseeing performance in the delivery of the Public Health responsibilities of the County Council***

- 11.7. The Committee received quarterly reports summarising service performance and quality on all of the directly commissioned services. A summary of the latest performance information is provided at Annex 2.
- 11.8. The Committee also approved a Public Health Department Plan for 2015/16. The Plan focused on four areas:

- 11.8.1 Improving quality and efficiency in commissioned Public Health services – looking at the commissioned services and making plans for future commissioning
- 11.8.2 Working in partnership to improve health and wellbeing – focusing on actions being undertaken with partners, and on the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 11.8.3 Embedding Public Health leadership – meeting statutory obligations, providing advice to CCGs and ensuring that Public Health responses are made to emerging environmental issues
- 11.8.4 Develop and make maximum use of Public Health skills within the Council – working across the Council, and reviewing the Public Health structures and responsibilities in line with Redefining Your Council

11.9. Actions were identified for Public Health within each of these categories, which covered many of the mandated functions of the Public Health Department and Council. Examples are refreshing JSNA topics and providing advice to the CCGs, for example in the development of the women and children’s workstream or in contributing to the mid-Notts and South Notts / Greater Nottingham transformation programmes.

11.10. Details of performance against this plan are appended to this report in Annex 3.

12. A complete list of all the decisions and deliberations of the Public Health Committee in 2015/16 is attached at Annex 1.

13. The report was approved for submission to the Health and Wellbeing Board by Public Health Committee on 19 May 2016.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

15. There are no direct financial implications for this report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

a) The Board notes the report.

**Barbara Brady**  
**Interim Director of Public Health**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (EP 29/04/2016)**

16. This report is for noting only and no Constitutional comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (29/04/2016)**

17. There are no financial implications contained within the report

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

- All