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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 25 January 2011

Subject: Healthy Lives, Healthy People: The Public Health White Paper

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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### 1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for the Scrutiny Board (Health) to understand the national and local implications of the Government's proposed public health reforms. It also provides an opportunity for the Board to comment on such proposals.

### 2.0 Background

2.1 In July 2010, the Government published its overall vision for the future of the NHS via its White Paper, '*Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*'. The Board has received and considered a number of briefings on these proposals and the likely implications. A further update on the status of these proposals is included elsewhere on the agenda.

2.2 At its meeting in December 2010, the Board was made aware that the Government's proposed public health reforms had been issued for consultation. Since that time, additional consultation papers have been issued, therefore to date, the suite of Government public health papers published can be summarised as:

- **Healthy lives, healthy people White Paper: Our strategy for public health in England** – sets out the Government's long-term vision for the future of public health in England. The aim is to create a 'wellness' service (Public Health England) and to strengthen both national and local leadership.
- **Healthy lives, healthy people: our health and wellbeing** – summary of evidence aimed to set out the state of the nation's health and wellbeing in 2010, which has informed the development of the White Paper.

- **Review of public health professional regulation** – a report on the issue of professional regulation within public health on behalf of the Chief Medical Officers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The White Paper invites views on the report, and asks a specific consultation question on this report.
- **Healthy Lives, Healthy People: transparency in outcomes - proposals for a public health outcomes framework** – explores the proposed public health outcomes framework. The consultation closes on 31 March, after which a summary of consultation responses received will be published.
- **Healthy lives, healthy people: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health** – explores the proposed funding and commissioning routes for Public Health England, including the ring-fenced budget provided to local authorities. The consultation closes on 31 March, after which a summary of responses received will be published.

### 3.0 Health Lives, Health People proposals

- 3.1 A summary of the Government's proposals for Public Health is outlined in Appendix 1. A full copy of the White Paper is available on request, but can also be found at [http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_122347.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122347.pdf) .
- 3.2 A Scrutiny Unit briefing on public health proposals is attached at Appendix 2 and a summary produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) is attached at Appendix 3.
- 3.3 The Joint Director of Public Health has been invited to the meeting to outline the proposals in more detail and address any questions raised by the Board. A summary of the consultation questions posed is detailed at appendix 4.

### 4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are asked to:
- 4.1.1 Consider and note the details presented in this report and those discussed at the meeting;
  - 4.1.2 Determine any specific comments to make as part of a stand alone or combined consultation response; and,
  - 4.1.3 Identify any specific matters that require further scrutiny and/or are to be included on the Board's future work programme.

### 5.0 Background Documents

- Public Health White Paper – *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England* – 30 November 2010