



The Centre for Public Scrutiny Healthy Lives, Healthy People – White paper summary

Introduction

A link to the Public Health White Paper ‘Healthy Lives, Healthy People’ and supporting documentation, published on 30th November 2010, is:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_121941

The White Paper sets out in more detail the Coalitions aspirations for public health, following the announcement of its intentions for healthcare in Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS and is published with certain assumptions about the passage of the Health Bill due before the end of the year. This summary is not a critique of every proposal – it is intended to summarise the key issues falling out of the white paper and to identify key themes that will be of interest to councillors serving on overview and scrutiny committees.

The White Paper is wide ranging, however there are some areas that are to be filled with further details and consultation. For example, documents that will set out the proposed public health outcomes framework, and funding and commissioning arrangements will follow in 2011, as too will 10 documents relating to health improvement and protection.

This document sets out:

- A summary of the key proposals
- CfPS initial reaction
- Questions that Councillors might want to ask
- Next steps in the response

Summary of key proposals

Public Health Locally

- For the first time in a generation, local government will be given the responsibility for public health, backed by ring-fenced budgets and new freedoms, to make a major impact on improving people’s health and tackling health inequalities in every community.

Services currently provided by Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities will be *transferred to local authorities from 2013*.

- *Directors of Public Health (DsPH) will also transfer to local government* where they can bring together work across education, health, transport, leisure and communities through new health and wellbeing boards (opening the door to more effective tackling of health issues with a focus on the wider social determinants of health). They will be jointly accountable to the LA and Public Health England (a new national public health service).
- DsPH will have a *ring-fenced budget*, and a new *health premium* rewarding progress on key outcomes and tackling health inequalities.

APPENDIX 3

- The White paper describes a radical new approach in improving the health of the population – this new approach will empower individuals to make healthy choices and will give communities the tools to meet their own health needs.
- The Government has reaffirmed its intention to create new Health and Wellbeing boards (H&WB). The comments gathered in the Equity and Excellence White Paper consultation were broadly supportive of the establishment of H&WBs, however what is interesting is the acceptance that more work is needed to develop “clarity of accountability”. It proposes that H&WBs will:
 - Be established in every *upper tier or unitary local authority* – but they will also have the flexibility to bring in the local expertise of district councils
 - Will bring together the key NHS, public health and social care leaders in each local authority area to *work in partnership*
 - Have a *proposed minimum membership* of elected representatives, GP consortia, DsPH, Directors of Adult Social Services, Directors of Children’s Services, local HealthWatch and, where appropriate, the participation of the NHSCB. However local areas will be able to expand membership to include the voluntary groups, clinicians and providers.
 - *Local authorities*, including DsPH, will each have an *explicit obligation to prepare the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)*, and to do so through the arrangements made by the health and wellbeing board.
 - Develop a *shared local view* about the needs of the community and support joint commissioning of NHS, social care and public health services in order to meet the needs of the whole local population effectively.
- Local authorities will have *new powers* to remove licenses from bars and clubs to deal with problem drinking cultures.

Addressing health and well being throughout life

- Closely linked to the recommendations within the *Marmot Review ‘Fair Society, Healthy Lives’* the Government is seeking to build on evidenced based approaches to improving health. A notable feature is improvement of health through the life course:
 - *Starting well* – giving children the best start in life
 - *Developing well* – delivering better outcomes for children and young people
 - *Living well* – encompassing all of the factors that contribute to health such as housing, transport, planning and the natural environment
 - *Working well* – promoting work as providers of good physical and mental health
 - *Ageing well* – helping people to live longer, more active and healthier

Public Health Nationally

- The White Papers announces the establishment of a new, dedicated and professional public health service – *Public Health England (PHE)* within the Department of Health. It will bring together parts of the current public health system delivered by the Health Protection Agency, the National Treatment Agency, the regional DsPH and others, which will strengthen the national response on emergency preparedness and health protection, and provide a strong hub for evidence, information and evaluation, supporting local efforts.

Its role will include:

- Providing public health advice, evidence and expertise to the Secretary of State

- Delivering effective health protection services;
- Commissioning or providing national-level improvement services
- Jointly appointing DsPH and supporting them through professional accountability arrangements:
- Allocating ring-fenced funding to local government and rewarding them (via the Health Premium) for progress made against elements of the proposed public health outcomes framework;
- Commissioning some public health services from the NHS
- Contributing internationally-leading science to the UK and globally.

PHE will be responsible for funding and commissioning of number of health protection, prevention and emergency preparedness services.

- Top-down targets will be replaced by a new *strategic outcomes framework*, focusing effort where it can make the most difference.
- Public Health remains important to Government but it is keen not to tell people what to do. Therefore it proposes a 'ladder' of interventions to determine the least intrusive approach necessary to achieve the desired effect and aim to make voluntary approaches work before resorting to regulation.
- Working in partnership with industry and the voluntary sector through the '*Public Health Responsibility Deal*' to tackle the challenge to public health. This will be launched in 2011 and will include the establishment of five networks on food, alcohol, physical activity, health at work and behaviour change.

Conclusion

The White Paper

- Further develops the Governments commitment to localism by proposing a radical change in the way that Public Health is delivered.
- Begins to describe the new public health world – and this will be developed further with additional consultation papers
- Presents opportunities for Local Authorities to take the public health reins and are welcomed providing that there is sufficient funding and capacity to help them to deliver the expectations
- Continually refers to transparency and accountability. The Government also seems to have taken notice of the responses it received to the recent consultation on the Health White Paper Liberating the NHS 'Equity and Excellence' – with the new White paper seeking clarity of accountability in the system between local government, GP Consortia and others
- Such a radical change could present a dip in services that are provided as staff work through new structures etc. Local Authorities, will need to be resilient and support a maintained focus on improving health.
- There are opportunities to link together transparency, involvement and accountability at local and national level

CfPS - initial reaction to the white paper

The Centre welcomes the Government's recently published White Paper 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People', which is proposing to hand local councils responsibility for public health, giving them the opportunity to have a major impact on improving local people's health and tackling health inequalities.

There are a number of issues that will affect Overview and Scrutiny functions; however the most important issue for OSCs is the reaffirmation of the intention to create local Health and Wellbeing Boards, and the desire to clarify accountability arrangements.

The White paper described a radical new approach in improving the health of the population – this new approach will empower individuals to make healthy choices and will give local communities the tools to meet their own health needs.

Tim Gilling, Deputy Executive Director, CfPS says:

"It is good to see that transparency and accountability are threaded throughout the white paper. We are delighted that there is an ongoing commitment to these fundamental principles that CfPS holds in high regard.

"It is also pleasing to note that the Government seems to be responding to messages it heard during the recent consultation on 'Equity and Excellence' – with the latest white paper seeking "clarity of accountability" between councils, GP Consortia and other partners.

"Over recent months CfPS has been promoting the role and function of scrutiny, accountability and transparency - I look forward to reviewing how "clarity" will be achieved when the full response to the consultation is published".

For the past 18 months we have been developing a programme looking at creative ways of using scrutiny to tackle Health Inequalities. The 10 Scrutiny Development Areas involved in this programme, have developed imaginative and transferrable models of scrutiny that will be available to other local authorities and their partners when the programme is launched in February 2011. The outputs of the programme chime very well with the proposals within the white paper, and we look forward to working with the Government on this agenda.

Questions that Councillors might want to ask

How will councillors influence:

- The local transition to the new arrangements?
- Appropriate outcome measures – for the new payment by results system proposed?
- How District Councils play an active role?
- The clarity of accountability and transparency arrangements locally and nationally?
- The development and support of an effective Health and Well-being Board?
- The relationship between councils and Public Health England?
- Resilience in the provision of services and health outcomes

Next Steps

The closing date for responses is 8 March 2011. CfPS will be preparing its own response to the proposals and we are seeking your views on the proposals. Please send comments, questions, concerns and views to: su.turner@cfps.org.uk by 4th February 2011.

In addition to this, we will be running a series of discussion topics on our website to gain the views of scrutiny professionals from across the Country.