

Improving outcomes and supporting transparency

Public Health Outcomes Framework Factsheet

Technical update November 2012

The responsibility to improve and protect our health lies with us all – government, local communities and with ourselves as individuals. The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) published in January 2012 sought to refocus the whole Public Health System around achieving positive health outcomes for the population and reducing inequalities in health, rather than focusing on process targets. This first refresh of the PHOF supports this goal but provides updated technical information for the majority of indicators, and baseline data for over half, to enable local authorities to begin engaging with the indicators and planning future service provision.

Context

In *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and way forward*, the Government promised to produce a number of policy updates setting out more detail on what we would want to

achieve in a new and reformed public health system. The Public Health Outcomes Framework, *Improving outcomes and supporting transparency*, was part of this series of updates. Together with the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework and the NHS Outcomes Framework, the three frameworks constitute a structure for measuring improvement across the health and care system and ensuring we meet the challenges we are facing.

This autumn will be the first time that the revised Adult Social Care and NHS outcomes frameworks, and updates to the Public Health Outcomes Framework, have been published alongside each other. The increased alignment we are seeking between the three will support the health and care system to tackle the challenges it faces in an holistic way and promote quality improvement across the system.

To accompany the publications, the Department has published *Improving Health and Care; The role of the Outcomes Frameworks*, setting out in

more detail how the frameworks work together to support delivery of the Department's vision for health and social care. Public Health Outcomes Framework documents should therefore be read in conjunction with this document.

Delivering improvement against the Public Health Outcomes Framework requires the continued collective efforts of the whole public health system, across public services and wider society. The Framework consists of two parts, a policy document and summary technical specifications. The Framework covers a period of three years, to support sustainable local service planning, but when we published the original framework in January 2012 we committed to continue to develop the indicators and to publish baseline data.

Progress since January 2012

The Department has been working with Public Health Observatories, local authorities and the NHS, and has now published updated versions of:

1. Part 1B:
 - a) Appendix A: "Overview of outcomes and indicators"
 - b) Appendix B: "Indicator criteria assessment"

- c) Appendix C: "Breakdown of indicators: local disaggregation, inequalities and equalities characteristics"
- d) Appendix D: "Readiness of indicators"

Appendices A, C and D have been updated; Appendix B is as it appeared in the original Part 1 document. Part 1A, which formed the first part of the original Part 1 document, has been republished separately simply to help people keep track of changes.

2. Part 2 (technical specifications): There have been changes to the technical specifications of many of the indicators, and these changes are explained in the text for the relevant indicator. Two indicators are undergoing more significant development:

- a) 1.18, formerly a measure of social connectedness (which will now use a measure of social isolation), and
- b) 2.10, on self-harm, which is undergoing revision on the basis of expert advice.

These therefore supersede those sections of the original documentation and should be read alongside the Part 1A document.

In conjunction with the refresh of the Outcomes Framework, DH and Public Health Observatories have worked to make available the first set of baselines, which are now available through a new interactive web tool: www.phoutcomes.info

Baselines and technical specifications for the remaining indicators are being developed further and will be published in due course. As before, Appendix D gives an overview of the current status of all the indicators.

Equalities and Inequalities

As part of the first set of baselines, we are presenting data for a number of indicators disaggregated by some of the equalities characteristics and by health inequalities. This provides an example of how such disaggregation can be presented as part of the PHOF data, and the intention is to expand the number of indicators and range of equalities and inequalities breakdowns that are presented in this way in future. An updated assessment of the data breakdowns that are feasible for PHOF indicators is provided in the updated Appendix C.

Next Steps

In the run-up to Public Health England going live and taking over the publication of progress updates, DH will continue to work with the Public Health Observatories to finalise more technical specifications and baselines. Continued research and the use of research evidence in the design of and

delivery of services at a local level will be vital.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework team will also continue to work with other policy teams to improve the alignment between the outcomes frameworks and work on other areas of importance. For example, both the Public Health and NHS Outcomes Framework teams have been working closely with the Children's policy teams to understand how best to respond to the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum. In addition, as highlighted in the Government's response to the NHS Future Forum's 2012 report¹, the Government strongly agrees there is a need to orientate the whole health system around patients. Work on a methodology for capturing patient experience of integrated care is underway and will be included within the revised NHS outcomes framework and Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework once available (a placeholder appears in the 2013-14 frameworks published this autumn). We will consider the possibility of a shared or complementary indicator, based upon this work, when the Public Health Outcomes Framework is due for renewal in 2016.

1 <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/01/forum-response/>



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