



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



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Chief Executive

Friday message

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Dear everyone

The publication of the first major national evaluation of the NHS Health Check in England was published in [BMJ Open](#) yesterday. The authors estimated that over five years 2,500 people avoided a major cardiovascular incident after being referred to treatment from the programme and more still have benefited from lifestyle changes. Additionally, the research shows that the programme is tackling health inequalities by reaching at risk black and minority ethnic groups and people from deprived areas and not only the 'worried well'. While these are very promising results, we are continuing to work hard with local authorities to improve uptake of the NHS Health Check and ensure as many people as possible benefit from the programme.

This week, in partnership with the Chief Medical Officer and some of the country's most well-known doctors, we issued a [video](#) to raise awareness of antibiotic resistant infections among parents and offer them advice on how they can keep their families well this winter. Antibiotic resistance is one of the greatest threats to modern medicine and it is critical we do everything we can to make the public, especially parents, aware of the ways we can each play a part in tackling it.

PHE's National Dementia Intelligence Network has published a new [Dementia Profile](#) on Fingertips, presenting a major change in the way dementia data will be used. This is the first time that transparent and bespoke comparison of data across the whole dementia care pathway has been made available in one, interactive online platform. The tool aims to help commissioners meet objectives set out in the [NHS planning guidance](#) by making information readily available so they can identify where variation exists, investigate the possible reasons why and ultimately change the way dementia and dementia services look across the country. Also published alongside the tool is a new dementia [Profile and Data Catalogue](#), which lists all dementia data currently available. It is the first step in ensuring all gaps in dementia data are filled and aims to stimulate conversation and joint working across organisations to make more data available for potential inclusion within the Dementia Profile.

It was my pleasure this week to meet members of our team involved in leading Securing our Future, including the many people who volunteered to support this programme, which implemented the outcomes of our Strategic Review. Our thanks to them all. Change is personal – how it affects you, how each of us deals with it. We know this has been a difficult experience for some. By managing this ourselves we not only save a great deal of money which others may pay to management consultants, we also hold ourselves to account directly when it goes well and when it does not. As a result of the Strategic Review and Securing our Future we are now much better prepared and able to deliver our remit as well as meet the challenging savings requirements for the coming years. Change won't stop. With the move to Harlow, for some it will become more intense. I am grateful to the team who have led this. We will learn and develop our ability to do this better with their and your honest feedback.

And finally, I am pleased to have been invited to chair the health and social care commission being established by the new [North East Combined Authority](#) and the NHS in the North East as part of their devolution agreement. The commission will look at the potential for further collaboration and integration to help improve the health and wellbeing of residents across Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland and County Durham (dependent on the outcome of a public consultation), with recommendations due to be reported in the summer.

With best wishes