



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



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Chief Executive

Friday message

Friday 8 July 2016

Dear everyone

Local councils and their partners came together at the Local Government Association (LGA) annual conference this week to discuss major issues facing the sector including housing, devolution, health and social care, and how to address these in the best interests of the health and wellbeing of local people. I continue to greatly benefit from spending time with local authority teams and their NHS and voluntary sector partners and this week I have been in Northallerton with North Yorkshire County Council. North Yorkshire covers a vast geography, covering five CCGs, seven districts and three STP footprints, and has much to teach about how we integrate care and services, with a focus on creating stronger communities. The council has recently been reviewed by the LGA through their corporate peer challenge programme with a very positive outcome and many areas of excellence.

We have now received all 44 Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) and I look forward to meeting the leaders of some of the footprints in the coming days and weeks to discuss their vision for closing the local health, quality and finance gaps. It has been encouraging to see how the NHS, Local Government and voluntary sector organisations have come together to create ambitious plans for their populations, bringing us all another step closer to making place-based planning a reality.

In 2015 in England there were nearly [435,000 sexually transmitted infections](#), with the greatest impact in young people under the age of 25 and gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM). Among MSM, there was a 21% increase in gonorrhoea and an 18% increase in syphilis diagnoses since 2014. There is a clear need to do more to raise awareness about STIs and how they can be prevented, especially the importance of using condoms, and to ensure easy access to STI testing and treatment services. I know this remains very high on everyone's agenda.

Tuesday was the 60th anniversary of the Clean Air Act, which was passed to reduce the pollution shrouding cities and towns across the UK. The Faculty of Public Health marked the anniversary with a [new report](#) calling for a major shift away from cars in favour of active travel (walking, cycling and public transport). This is absolutely in line with our national and regional work to promote active environments and to better understand the health impacts of exposure to air pollution.

On Wednesday, we hosted a national e-cigarettes symposium with Cancer Research UK, where we launched a [new framework](#) to support employers and organisations developing their own vaping policies. The framework highlights five key points to consider, ensuring that policies make a clear distinction between vaping and smoking, are based on evidence of harm to bystanders, identify and manage risks of uptake by children and young people, support smokers to stop smoking and stay smokefree and support compliance with smokefree law and policies. The symposium was an energising event attended by public health leaders, tobacco control experts, policy makers, academics and e-cigarette users.

Our Change4Life [10 Minute Shake Up](#) partnership with Disney began again this week encouraging families to 'Just Keep Moving', inspired by the new Disney release *Finding Dory*. The aim as before is to help children reach 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day in a genuinely fun way.

And finally, we welcome the [consensus statement](#) published this week by 21 leading health, consumer and professional organisations in support of our Eatwell Guide, as we strive to give the public clear and actionable advice based on the best current scientific evidence.

With best wishes