



Public Health  
England



# South East Centre Prospectus 2016–2018

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# Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the PHE South East Centre prospectus. The aim of this prospectus is to give you a flavour of the work we do as a Centre and the support that we can offer you.

The role of PHE South East Centre is to protect and improve the health of the public living in the South East, and to address health inequalities, working with national and local government, the NHS, industry, academia, the public, and the voluntary and community sectors.

We can only do this by working with you and ensuring that within the South East we have an effective and joined up public health system. Many people are part of that system and we all have an important role to play in ensuring the system is seamless. This document sets out our offer in supporting that system.

The document covers the work of our main teams, Health Protection, Health Improvement, Healthcare Public Health, Workforce and Information and Intelligence. We are supported to deliver these functions by a support team whose work enables us to function effectively. I thank all of those working in my teams who have helped put this document together.



**Diana Grice**  
Director of the  
South East Centre

## People Charter

*Protecting and improving the nation's health*

*'In PHE the way we behave  
will have the greatest impact  
on achieving our objectives'*

### Communicate

- Communicate openly, honestly and clearly, avoiding jargon
- Seek out and share knowledge, suggest solutions
- Encourage, listen and be receptive to others' views

### Achieve together

- Work together towards PHE's objectives
- Nurture open relationships and build trust
- Work collaboratively with all customers, internally and externally
- Empower each other and hold each other to account

### Respect

- Treat colleagues and customers as they would wish to be treated
- Value difference by embracing diversity and inclusion
- Look after our own wellbeing, and support each other
- Recognise and celebrate our successes, large and small

### Excel

- Provide excellent service to colleagues and customers
- Drive personal development and suggest ways to improve
- Lead by example, acting as a role model internally and externally
- Maintain professionalism at all times

# Who we are and what we do

Public Health England (PHE) is the expert national public health agency that fulfils the Secretary of State for Health's statutory duty to protect health, address inequalities and promote the health and wellbeing of the nation.

PHE South East is one of nine centres across England, as shown on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-centres-local-authority-lookup>

We work as part of local health systems across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Health protection and healthcare public health services, including screening, immunisation and dental public health also extends to Dorset, as this area forms part of the NHS England Wessex geography.

We take care to ensure all our work is directed by plans that:

- Reflect and support delivery of the priorities identified by PHE and our main partners, particularly local authorities and the NHS.
- Demonstrate a clear and agreed programme of work.
- Show commitment to developing the capacity and capability of the public health and wider workforce due to the opportunities and long term benefits this brings to the health and care system.



# Our vision for the South East Centre

We exist to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through local delivery of world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and delivery of specialist public health services to the population of the South East of England.

Our core functions are set out in an annual remit letter from Ministers:

- Protect the public's health from infectious diseases and other public health hazards delivered through our 24/7 local health protection service.
- Improve the public's health and wellbeing delivered through our specialist advice and support to local government and other stakeholders.
- Improve population health through sustainable health and care services delivered through our specialist advice and support to the NHS system.
- Build the capacity and capability of the public health system.
- Work in partnership with Health Education England to develop the public health system needed for the future.

All of our work is informed by:

- The application of evidence into practice, which is at the heart of the work of our scientific and professional teams across the organisation, delivered locally.
- A place-based approach that engages local communities, building on their assets and addressing the wider determinants of health.
- A life course approach, promoting a holistic view of an individual's total health and wellbeing needs, seeing public health as one system for improving health and wellbeing.



# 1 Health protection

Protecting the public's health from infectious diseases and other hazards to health. We provide specialist health protection and epidemiology services as well as leadership and support for health emergency planning and response.

## Capabilities

As a South East PHE Centre we maintain a robust system for the detection, assessment, management, control and reporting of new and emerging threats to public health.

- We have experienced and well established health protection teams with access to an unparalleled range of scientific and professional expertise. This enables us to achieve our aims and deliver high quality services and advice.
- We provide a public health response during local, national and international crises and support emergency preparedness and resilience planning.

- We provide specialist investigation and control of communicable disease outbreaks including work on consistency in approaches to outbreaks investigation<sup>1</sup> and implementation of national strategy<sup>2</sup> for disease control.

## Key actions

- 24/7 acute health protection response.
- 24/7 health protection advice for partners.
- Integrated health protection surveillance, detecting changes in patterns of disease or its determinants to help target interventions.
- Emergency, preparedness and resilience planning to protect the public's health
- Provide public health expertise to NHS England (NHSE) commissioners to ensure effective disease control across the prison, probation and detention estate.

<sup>1</sup> Action set out in 2015-16 business plan on work with environmental health partners to develop a consistent approach to investigation of outbreaks and gastro intestinal investigations

<sup>2</sup> Action set out in 2015-16 business plan including implementation of newly published National Tuberculosis Strategy



## Core Function 1:

What we have achieved:

- During 2015 the four health protection teams dealt with 9,587 enquiries. The teams managed 1,516 health protection incidents of which 1,157 were confirmed outbreaks of communicable disease and 28,158 cases of communicable / notifiable disease
- PHE-led screening of passengers returning from Ebola-affected countries was operational at Gatwick between October 2014 and December 2015. The team was on site seven days a week. The set-up of the programme and the staffing at the port was delivered by Kent, Surrey and Sussex HPT staff. As of the 4th December 2015 there have been 1,458 returning passengers screened at Gatwick, with 56 of these being classified as 'higher risk' and requiring a 21 day follow up period. Five passengers were referred directly to the NHS and all of those have tested negative
- In 2015, 21 speciality registrars and eight foundation year 2 doctors have completed health protection placements in HPTs in the Centre. All training sites are highly rated as teams contribute to teaching programmes of undergraduate programmes at several universities

## 2 Health and wellbeing

Improving the public's health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities. We work with local authorities, supporting and enabling them to improve the health of local people and to reduce health inequalities.

### Capabilities

Across the South East Centre and working with national PHE colleagues we provide an independent public health voice and expertise and advocate on the basis of the evidence and professional judgement.

- We support local authority partners with delivery of mandated services and work in line with national priorities for public health to reduce inequalities and to enable and improve access between local and national expertise.
- We help improve understanding of the systems and governance that underpin our public health services, provide oversight of systems achievement, tailoring and negotiating support.
- With academics and other partners we build, promote and implement the evidence base for prevention and risk reduction to translate and

apply research findings from areas of epidemiology, social, behavioural and implementation science.

- We promote new methods and models to enhance cost effectiveness and return on investment, contribute to sector-led improvement and work to evaluate effectiveness of our partnership programmes.

### Key actions

- Work with local authorities to implement plans to ensure adequate resources to improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities.
- Provide expert guidance to commissioners of drug prevention and treatment services, sexual health services, NHS Health Check and the National Child Measurement Programme.
- Enable local delivery of our priorities and national plans, supporting local partners to:
  - reduce harmful drinking and alcohol related hospital admissions and commission effective prevention and treatment services



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### Core Function 2:

- As a population we are 20% less active than we were in 1961
- 70,000 premature deaths in the UK could be avoided each year if UK diets matched nutritional guidelines
- Smoking is England's biggest killer, causing nearly 80,000 premature deaths a year and a heavy toll of illness
- 8% of 15-year-olds in England are regular smokers and a further 10% are occasional smokers
- From 2001-2012, the number of people who died due to liver disease in England rose from 7,841 to 10,948 – a 40% increase and in contrast to other major causes of disease that have been declining

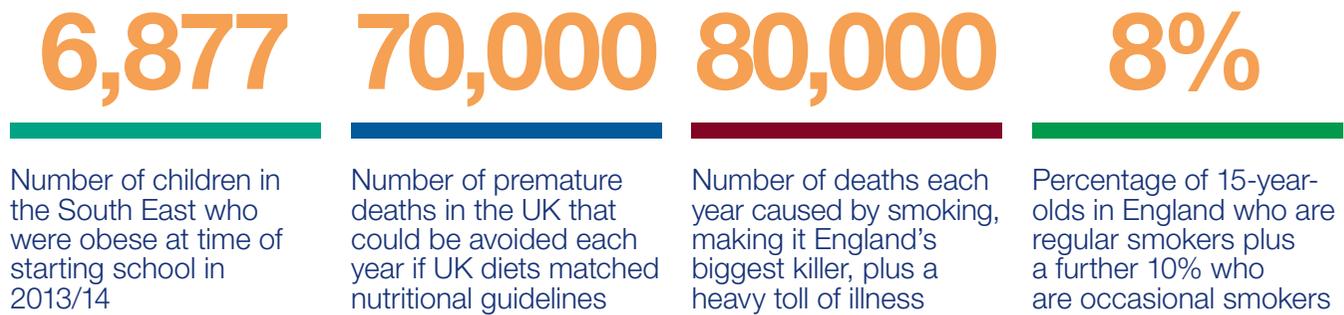
- share best practice and collaborate through tobacco control networks and alliances.
- commission 0-5 Health Visiting and School Nursing services, improve health outcomes for all children and young people and address local challenges.
- develop strategic plans to reduce childhood obesity, reduce inequalities between social groups and implement national guidance/ standards in cutting intake of sugar and trans fats.
- improve prevention and integrated care pathways for overweight and obese adults.
- Provide advice on dementia to local authorities, CCGs, clinical networks and academic health science networks and support NHS led projects to increase early dementia diagnosis. Raise awareness of inequalities in dementia and support development of dementia friendly communities.
- Work across public health fields and communications team to support effective use of targeted communications and campaigns to engage and empower staff, individuals and communities to change their behaviour.

### Reducing health inequalities

- We work to ensure equalities are routinely embedded and support our partners to systematically reduce health inequalities.
- Provide specialist expertise to advise NHSE commissioning of health and justice services including strategic advice on health needs assessment.
- Advocate for investment to reduce the stigma of mental illness and suicide rates, increase awareness of mental health symptoms and services and access to health and care services. We also support improvement in population health through wellbeing outcomes.
- Promote life course through place based approaches that help people to stay healthy in the places and communities where they are born, live and work.

*Did you know?*

- Over the last 6 months we've responded to over 82 queries from local authorities on obesity
- In November 2015, PHE South East established a Directors of Public Health-sponsored peer network of local authority children and young people leads to share good practice and collaborate across the South East
- In February 2015 we awarded nearly £2m as eight grants to develop drug and alcohol recovery services in the South East
- The recently established South East Obesity, Healthy Weight, Physical Activity and Nutrition network has now met twice with over 20 people attending each meeting



# 3 Healthcare public health

Improving population health through sustainable health and care services. We work alongside NHS England (NHSE) and the local system in developing and delivering the prevention programme set out in the NHS Five Year Forward View. We advise on promoting good health and preventing ill health in primary and acute care, community pharmacy, dental care and specialist commissioning.

## Capabilities

- Acting as NHSE's public health advisor we provide expertise in the analysis of population health needs. We advise on the relative value and benefits of different interventions and allocation of resources across to secure the best outcomes.
- We provide support to key national public health initiatives and in local implementation of national programmes.<sup>3</sup> We undertake to work on behalf of NHSE and provide public health input to directly commissioned public health services.

## Key actions

- Support NHSE and other partners to reduce variations in health outcomes, including identifying those resulting from difference in service provision as well as social and economic factors.
- Working with the NHS to deliver high quality screening programmes to reduce the burden of disease and disabilities.
- Lead, plan and implement national immunisation programmes and provide specialist advice and information.
- Ensure high coverage of safe, cost-effective vaccines to reduce the burden of preventable diseases.
- Specialist support for NHSE commissioning of dental services and local authority commissioning for oral health surveillance prevention and treatment services.
- Support the development of the healthcare public health workforce through networks.
- Provide public health advice to the commissioning of NHS specialised services.

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## Core Function 3:

- We worked with NHS England to extend the childhood flu vaccination to all children aged 2-4 and introduce a new vaccination programme against meningococcal group B (MenB) and Meningococcal ACWY (replaces MenC Vaccine)
- With NHS partners, we expanded the NHS Newborn Blood Spot Screening to include four rare metabolic diseases. Early detection and treatment for babies and families affected is life-changing, preventing disability and in some cases, death
- With NHS partners we have rolled out the bowel scope screening programme for men and women in England aged 55 years. This is an additional investigation within the current national bowel cancer screening programmes

3 National Diabetes Prevention Programme and Vanguard sites developing new models of care.

# 4 Building capability and capacity

Building the capability and capacity of the public health system. We work with staff in Health Education England and local authorities, building and developing capability in the wider health and social care workforce to meet the challenges to the public's health, maintaining a resilient and skilled public health workforce.

## Capabilities

Provide expertise in public health workforce development to deliver a clear and structured South of England workforce plan with sign up from the PHE Centres, Directors of Public Health and Health Education England.

- We have strong links to ensure a consistent collaborative approach is taken in the development of the public health and wider workforces in Thames Valley, Wessex and Kent, Surrey and Sussex.
- We are well positioned with joint funding in place, ensuring duplication is minimised and resources are maximised.

- We use local links and relationships with NHSE and Local Education Partnership Boards to secure collaborative delivery.



  
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## Core Function 4:

- Offered mentor training across the patch
- Supported the local public health system to develop more public health practitioners
- Produced Wessex NHS Health Check training guidance document, which includes behaviour change/ Make Every Contact Count (MECC) training, in collaboration with all Wessex local authority leads and other key stakeholders (Health Education Wessex (HEW) Local Medical Committee (LMC) and Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) ) for use in future staff training. Piloted and evaluated successfully in Dorset in November 2015
- Published skills mix report 'Supporting Public Health Workforce Development in Local Authorities'

## Key actions

- Work with local authorities to develop a resilient and skilled workforce by engaging with local authorities to understand their expectations for workforce development and promoting the ability of staff to deliver.
- Develop talent and leadership across the public health workforce and provide specialist career development. Deliver a robust Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme and fund specific knowledge and skills training.
- Work with the School of Public Health to ensure trainees are equipped to successfully undertake the role of public health consultant and provide high quality placements for trainees.
- Strengthen PHE workforce development and ensure professional appraisal and revalidation.
- Continued investment in Practitioner and Advanced Practitioner Development.
- Work with partners to support the implementation of Making Every Contact Count in local areas.
- Build the wider public health capacity, including work with partners to embed public health skills inclusion in pre-registration training and medical specialities across the wider local authority workforce.

## Did you know?

- More people live in the South East than in any other region of the UK. This equates to 8.8 million people<sup>4</sup>
- The population in the South East is equivalent to that of Belgium
- With almost 12million passengers, the Port of Dover in Kent is the busiest passenger port in the UK
- Housing in the South East is among the least affordable, with the second highest prices of any English region (after London).

*Based on national data/published data*

# Vital

Regular meetings with our stakeholders in hospital infection control, environmental health and health protection committees are a vital part of our work

# 10%

10 per cent of the population was providing unpaid care for someone with a disability or illness at time of 2011 census

# 75%

More than three-quarters of households live in urban areas in settlements of more than 10,000 people.

# 1 in 4

Rural districts comprise more than half the total area of the South East, but are home to only 28 per cent of the population

# 20%

More than 1 in 5 children in the South East have preventable tooth decay at age 5

# 5 Knowledge and intelligence

## Capabilities

- We provide trusted intelligence and help local systems with interpretation and insight to translate knowledge into practice. This includes publishing outcomes data, identifying variation in performance and providing access to analytical tools, comparative information and evidence.
- We deliver a service that is responsive to local need and provide bespoke information and intelligence products to meet these needs.
- Our analysts and links into public health systems enable us to disseminate information including:
  - Regular data reports to highlight areas for action and briefing around Public Health Outcomes Framework.
  - Analysis of longer term trends in public health epidemiology as well as current outliers and annual summary of important indicators to support diagnostic work.
  - Providing a local link into the Health Intelligence Networks including cancer, cardio-vascular disease, child and maternity, mental health neurology and dementia.

## Key actions

- Support public health teams and partners to identify areas of need for public health information and intelligence and facilitate delivery by PHE.
- Manage the South East Public Health Information Group as a CPD and information sharing programme for public health intelligence staff.
- Develop knowledge and skills in the public health workforce with focus of training on intelligence needs of local authority and PHE non-specialist staff.
- Provide training on national PHE tools for population health analysis including Local Health, Longer Lives, Chief Knowledge Segment tool and outputs from National Health Intelligence Networks within PHE.
- Responding to identified needs of Directors of Public Health and from within the PHE South East Centre.

For more information about the work of the national PHE Chief Knowledge and Intelligence function visit [www.phe.gov.uk](http://www.phe.gov.uk) or visit us on Twitter [@PHE\\_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk)



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## Core Function 5:

- Develop the Knowledge Transfer Facilitator roles to enhance knowledge and intelligence relationships between local authority public health teams and Public Health England in conjunction with the Centre's relationships
- Facilitate and manage the regional public health intelligence network
- Roll out training/awareness sessions focused on main Chief Knowledge Officer (CKO) outputs
- Organise training sessions on public health intelligence for non-specialist staff in local authorities and partner organisations
- Produce local briefings related to publications of important CKO national outputs
- Act as the local presence for PHE's topic-based specialist intelligence resources
- Produce annual summaries of important indicators at local authority level to support the diagnostic work
- Undertake agreed work that reflects local priorities in health and wellbeing strategies, joint strategic needs assessments and business plans

# Where we are

PHE South East has staff working from 11 sites. Some staff work from NHS England sites across the region, although our teams predominantly work out of the following four main sites.

Here are our main bases:



## Horsham

4th Floor  
Parkside County Hall  
Chart Way  
Horsham  
East Sussex  
RH12 1XA



## Chilton

Harwell Science Park  
Fermi Avenue  
Didcot  
Oxfordshire  
OX11 0RQ



## Ashford

Level Two Civic Centre  
Tannery Lane  
Ashford  
Kent  
TN23 1PL



## Whiteley

Unit 8, Fulcrum 2  
Solent Way  
Whiteley  
Hampshire  
PO15 7FN

# The South East Centre at a glance



**Chilton**



**Horsham**



**Whiteley**



**Ashford**

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