



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive

Friday message

Friday 26 June 2015

Dear everyone

Next Wednesday the new arrangements for strengthening our local presence go live. We have changed our geographical footprint to match the nine regions of local government so that we can further improve our focus on supporting place-based work, our response to local priorities, and stronger local delivery of our national functions. It should also help ensure that local voices and experience are better heard and taken into account nationally. Each of the four PHE regions will continue to be led by a Director who, as well as supporting the eight Centre Directors, will also be the public health adviser to NHS England in their region. London remains a combined Centre and Region. We have completed the appointment of Centre Directors with the arrival of Dr Aliko Ahmed as Centre Director of the East of England, who joins us from Staffordshire where he was Director of Public Health and where he is also a visiting Professor of Public Health at Staffordshire University.

The Secretary of State has this week confirmed that, later this summer, babies and young people will start to benefit from further protection against meningitis and septicaemia through the [launch](#) of two new meningococcal immunisation programmes in England. From August, the MenACWY vaccine will start to be offered to teenage groups starting with all 17 and 18 year-olds (school Year 13) and any new university entrants. Also, from September, all babies aged two months will be offered the MenB vaccine, Bexsero®, as part of the NHS Childhood Immunisation Programme. This means that our country becomes the first in the world to begin a national and publicly funded MenB immunisation programme, and I am proud that colleagues across PHE have played an integral part in bringing this to fruition. Our Meningococcal Reference and Vaccine Evaluation Units in Manchester provided the scientific evidence for the licensing and introduction of the MenB vaccine, which included determining vaccine immunogenicity in different age groups, as well as assessing the percentage of strains the vaccine will cover. Their enhanced surveillance work on the efficacy of the vaccine continues, whilst our immunisation colleagues are working tirelessly with our colleagues in the NHS to ensure the necessary arrangements are in place for the careful implementation of both programmes.

Yesterday, along with Seamus Watson, our wellbeing and mental health national programme manager, I visited Brixton's Mosaic Clubhouse, part of a worldwide network providing support and opportunities for people living with mental health problems. In 2012 Lambeth Council commissioned Mosaic to provide a mental health information, walk-in, email and phone-in support service in collaboration with Lambeth and Southwark Mind. In addition, Mosaic hosts a Living Well Partnership which helps members access support services such as benefits, housing advice and smoking cessation. They have also formed close relationships with education providers and run a host of courses, as well as offering unique Supported Employment opportunities. Taken together, this is practical, wraparound care and support which makes a real difference to helping people get back into work and education – the Mosaic Clubhouse was cited in a recent Care Quality Commission report on crisis services as an example of best practice.

And finally, again yesterday, I had the privilege of being with 4th year medical students at University College London as they learned from people who had experienced homelessness how they had recovered and were now providing peer support to those who had not. They repeatedly emphasised that patience, kindness and listening and, above all empathy, were more important than clinical intervention, as critical as that is in addressing common problems such as HIV, Hepatitis C and TB. The medical students have consistently rated this part of their curriculum as the most compelling and educational in preparing them for life as front line doctors.

With best wishes