



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



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Chief Executive

Friday message

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Dear everyone

You will by now be aware of yesterday's announcement by the Chancellor of further saving programmes across all of Government and that as part of this the Department of Health has been asked to deliver savings of £200m from the public health grant. This is obviously a very big ask, and on top of the pressures that local government is already facing it is not going to be an easy one to implement – not least as the public health responsibilities of local government are so intertwined with the NHS and the delivery of front line care outside of hospitals. There is going to be a period of consultation led by the Department of Health and we will play our full part in working this through, as I know local government will too. We ourselves are currently delivering savings of 20 per cent, and since its creation PHE has delivered more than £100m of savings, so we are all very definitely in this together.

The launch, yesterday, at the NHS Confederation conference of the [NHS Five Year Forward View: Time to Deliver](#), by all the national agencies who are full partners in this ground-breaking collaboration, was a further reminder of just how closely all parts of the health community, local government, industry and the voluntary and community sectors must work together for us to achieve the ambitions set out in the 5YFV. Good health is not synonymous with more health care, it is prevention and early intervention which are key to enabling people to live healthier for longer, rather than just longer in poor health. This is everyone's business – including local and national government, the NHS, employers, and individuals themselves. We have made a start through the work of the Diabetes Prevention Programme which brings together NHS England, Diabetes UK and PHE to identify those with pre-diabetes and help them to make the lifestyle changes that will enable them to avoid the risk of diabetes. This is only the beginning of the work of the NHS Prevention Programme Board which is taking forward this element of the 5YFV. It will also focus on hypertension, atrial fibrillation, falls in the frail elderly, smoking in pregnancy, harmful drinking, child obesity and workplace health. In addition to enabling individuals to take steps that will improve their own health and wellbeing, this wide-ranging programme will also reduce the burden on the NHS, deliver savings and support its sustainability.

This week we published the annual Health Profiles for every Local Authority in England. These included [Alcohol Profiles](#) and the really encouraging news is that alcohol-related hospital admissions among under 18s is down again, continuing the downward trend of the last three years. However, there is still much work to be done. More than half of local authorities in England saw a slight increase in the number of adult alcohol-related hospital admissions, with the rates of admission 55 per cent higher in the most deprived areas. Alcohol continues to be the leading risk factor for deaths among men and women aged between 15 and 49 years in the UK, and the number of deaths has remained virtually unchanged over the past decade, yet much of this harm is preventable.

Also published on the WHO website this week is the [updated guidance](#) on the key public health considerations for mass gatherings, which PHE has led on behalf of the World Health Organisation. It was produced through our WHO Collaborating Centre on Mass Gatherings and involved a two year collaboration across the worldwide network of Collaborating Centres. This work is part of the continuing legacy from the London 2012 Olympics and forms an important part of supporting global health security and building capacity globally. The aim is for this to be an evidenced resource for those involved in the organisation of very large events and gatherings.

With best wishes