



Public Health
England



Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive

Friday message

Friday 3 May 2013

Dear everyone

I am glad to say we have [appointed](#) four non-executive members to our Advisory Board which will be led by our chairman, Professor David Heymann. They are: Professor Richard Parish, Chief Executive of the Royal Society for Public Health; Professor George Griffin, Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at St George's, University of London; Derek Myers, Chief Executive of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and of Hammersmith and Fulham; and Martin Hindle, Chair of University of Leicester Hospitals. [They](#) each bring invaluable experience and expertise into PHE and we very much look forward to working with them. Our first public meeting will be held in June.

As I told the Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Addictions conference in Newcastle yesterday, we have appointed an international addiction expert, [Dr Thomas McLellan](#), as our Drugs Recovery Adviser. Dr McLellan will review England's progress on recovery and give independent advice on how best to achieve improved rates of recovery. Highly respected in American addiction services, he is co-founder and CEO of the Treatment Research Institute (TRI) which is dedicated to researching substance misuse treatment effectiveness. In his role as Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Dr McLellan was the driving force behind Barack Obama's National Drug Control Strategy. We are very fortunate to have him.

This week I also met Dr Chris Weston, a Public Health Consultant in Lincolnshire, and colleagues from the local government planning profession to discuss spatial planning - how and where we live, work and play – and its critical impact on human health. The repatriation to local government of the responsibility for improving the public's health offers a golden opportunity to ensure that these considerations are fully taken into account in wider community planning. PHE is looking into how best we can support this cross-cutting agenda and, working with the planning profession's [Spatial Planning and Health Group](#), to develop public health expertise in this field that can be drawn on locally.

Most of the National Executive spent Wednesday in Belfast meeting our counterparts and reaffirming our unbreakable commitment to working and learning together. Northern Ireland has experience – from which we can benefit – developed over many years of integrating health and social care and, for the past four years since creating their own public health agency, public health being fully embedded in end to end commissioning of health services. By design they are seeking to emphasise prevention and early intervention as everyone's responsibility, an approach we have committed to in England, albeit with much to do to make this a reality.

And finally, it is of note that everyone received their first PHE salaries last week with barely a hitch – an astonishing achievement by our payroll and pensions team who, under the tireless leadership of Kathy Britton, have ensured that our 5,000 staff, transferring from 130-plus bodies, were paid on time. I want to pay tribute to them and to say thank you.

With best wishes