



PHE publications gateway number 2013430

23 January 2014

PHE Bulletin, Public Health England's regular update, provides news and information on PHE and the public health landscape for all those concerned with the public's health. For more information see our website: www.gov.uk/phe

Public health news

PHE publishes Children and Young People's Health Benchmarking Tool

PHE's Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network has published a first version of the [Children and Young People's Health Benchmarking Tool](#). This new resource brings together and builds on health outcomes data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework and the NHS Outcomes Framework.

£10 million boost to support drug and alcohol recovery

Recovery-orientated drug and alcohol treatment centres across England are set to benefit from new government investment of £10 million. The capital funding will be distributed by PHE via local authorities to voluntary sector and NHS-based service providers to support needs-led projects that contribute towards helping their clients to overcome dependency. This is the fourth wave of government capital investment funding to support drug and alcohol recovery. For more information, see PHE's [press release](#).

Rarer cancers with unknown primary tumours diagnosed too late

More than half (57%) of newly diagnosed cases of Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP) - around 25,000 in England between 2006 and 2010 - presented as an emergency compared to 23% for all cancers, shows new research by PHE's National Cancer Intelligence Network. The one-year survival rates for all CUP patients included in the Routes to Diagnosis study is 16%, which is low compared to most other cancer types. CUP tumours presenting as an emergency - including from A&E

or emergency referral from a GP - have the lowest survival of all the routes to diagnosis. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE and NHS Improving Quality announce changes to the End of Life Care Co-ordination Information Standard

Some changes have been made the End of Life Care Co-ordination National Information Standard following feedback from implementers and key stakeholders. The standard aims to improve the co-ordination of care through better communication of people's wishes and preferences for care at the end of life. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE and Association of Directors of Public Health survey findings on tackling obesity

A [report](#) on a PHE survey of 136 local authorities and directors of public health on their obesity priorities has been published. The survey was a collaborative effort with the Association of Directors of Public Health with support from the Local Government Association. The report gives an overview of the survey, findings and recommendations for reducing obesity in local communities. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Standardised packaging of tobacco: PHE's submission to the Chantler review

PHE has made a [submission](#) to the independent review into standardised packaging of tobacco products being led by Sir Cyril Chantler.

Sustainability in Public Health England 2013

PHE has published [Sustainability in Public Health England 2013](#) outlining its sustainable development activities in relation to its carbon footprint and its impact on the environment. The report forms the basis of work to minimise emissions during PHE's first year of operation.

Local multi-disciplinary teams in public health

PHE, the Local Government Association, the Faculty of Public Health and the Association of Directors of Public Health will work together to develop good practice guidance on the skill mix which councils may want to consider in a local public health team. For more information see the [joint statement](#).

Flooding advice factsheet for the public

Advice to help those at risk of flooding and on what to do after a flood is available in [Flooding: advice for the public](#), a new factsheet produced by PHE in collaboration with the Environment Agency. PHE has been providing information to local partners in areas affected by flooding. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

PHE update on avian influenza

On 8 January 2014, health officials in Alberta, Canada confirmed an isolated, fatal case of influenza A (H5N1), or avian influenza, in a person who had returned from travel to Beijing, China. Canadian authorities are following up all contacts of the patient and are working with the Chinese and World Health Organization on the case. H5N1 has been circulating in poultry over the last decade and occasionally humans are infected. Infection of humans causes severe illness with a high death rate, but the virus does not transmit readily from person to person. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

Ringfenced public health grant letter

PHE and the LGA have outlined the agreed arrangements for providing a year-end Preliminary Statement of Assurance to demonstrate that the ringfenced public health grant has been spent on eligible expenditure. Their [letter](#), addressed to local authority chief executives, sets out the process for returning Preliminary Statements of Assurance for the 2013 to 2014 financial year. It includes a Statement of Assurance template to be completed and returned to PHE.

Enteric fever cases decrease for the second year

New figures from PHE show that 354 cases of enteric fever were reported among returning travellers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2012, which is 26% lower than the 480 cases reported in 2011. The figures are published in PHE's annual review [Enteric Fever \(typhoid and paratyphoid\) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: 2012](#). For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

Newborn screening programmes awarded funding to trial electronic results sharing

NHS newborn screening programmes have been awarded funding as part of a consortium of organisations trialling the electronic sharing of screening results in order to reduce delays and minimise the risk of data errors. NHS Screening Programmes are part of PHE. For more information, see PHE's [news story](#).

The role of community pharmacies in public health

A Pharmacy and Public Health Forum [progress report](#) published last week by PHE details the development of evidence and research on community pharmacy's contribution to public health. The forum was set up by Earl Howe in response to proposals from the government's Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and professional leaders to bring together pharmacy and public health interests. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

Screening programmes live consultations

Public consultations on three screening policies by PHE's UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) are currently live. They are:

- [Expanded blood spot consultation](#) on increasing the number of diseases tested in newborn blood spot screening (closing 20 March)
- [Diabetes in adults consultation](#) (closing 25 March)
- [Atrial fibrillation consultation](#) (closing 24 March)

In December the UK NSC published its recommendations on screening for a variety of conditions, including placenta praevia and vasa praevia, vision defects in children, spinal muscular atrophy, syphilis, old age, thyroid disease, lead poisoning and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The briefing and minutes can be found [here](#).

Decision aid helps men make informed choices about AAA screening

The NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme has developed an interactive website to help older men make informed decisions about AAA screening. The [AAA screening patient decision aid](#) aims to help men aged 65 and over understand the potential benefits and risks of screening so they can decide if they want to be screened based on the available evidence. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations – G8 respiratory viruses

PHE has opened a [consultation](#) in partnership with other professional organisations on the clinical related guidance Standards for Microbiology Investigation (SMI) "G8 respiratory viruses". This SMI describes the main viruses responsible for causing respiratory illness in the UK.

Pregnant women advised to avoid animals that are giving birth

Pregnant women are advised to avoid close contact with farmed animals that are giving birth. Coming into close contact with sheep during lambing or other farm animals that are giving birth may risk their own health, and that of their unborn child, from infections that such animals can carry. The annual advice comes from PHE, the Department of Health, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Health and Safety Executive. For more information see the [press release](#).

PHE campaign news

Be Clear on Cancer

A national Be Clear on Cancer campaign, led by PHE in partnership with NHS England and the Department of Health, will run from 3 February to 16 March 2014 to raise awareness of breast cancer in women over 70. The key message will be “1 in 3 women who get breast cancer are over 70, so don’t assume you’re past it”. It will run on TV, in national press, out-of-home media such as GP surgeries and pharmacy bags and direct mail. See [here](#) for further information and resources.

Other Be Clear on Cancer campaigns this quarter are:

- a national lung cancer reminder campaign running from 10 March to 31 March (possibly extended into April)
- ovarian cancer in women over 50, running from 10 February to 16 March in the North West TV region
- oesophago-gastric cancer in men and women over 50, running from 10 February to 9 March in the North East and Border TV regions
- local skin cancer (melanoma) campaign in the South West from mid-March to the end of April

Early results of the Be Clear on Cancer national lung campaign that ran in 2012 show that during the campaign period an extra 700 diagnoses were made, with 300 of those people receiving potentially curative treatment. For more information, see the PHE and Department of Health [news story](#).

Change4Life

Change4Life has launched a new 28-day [Resolution plan](#), to encourage adults and families to make one healthy change in 2014 – move more, eat healthier, drink less or quit smoking. The plan is free to sign up to, and over 28 days, registrants will receive weekly emails of tips and support to improve their chances of success.

People news

Professor Dilys Morgan awarded MBE

Professor Dilys Morgan, PHE's Head of Gastrointestinal, Emerging and Zoonotic Infections has been awarded the MBE for services to health protection in the New Year's Honours list. Dr Morgan is also chair of the Human Animal Infections and Risk Surveillance group, an Honorary Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and chair of the Organising Committee for the Five Nations Health Protection Conference. For further information see PHE's [press release](#).

New appointment in the fight against healthcare-associated infections

Professor Mark Wilcox has been appointed as the new Chair of PHE's Rapid Review Panel. This panel was set up to assess new equipment and products with value to the NHS in the improvement of infection control and those that could reduce hospital acquired infections. Professor Wilcox is a consultant microbiologist and leads on *Clostridium difficile* for PHE. He is also head of microbiology at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals and professor of medical microbiology at the University of Leeds. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

News from other organisations

BMA survey of public health consultants and registrars

The British Medical Association has launched a [survey](#) covering public health consultants and registrars in the UK to establish where they are working within the new public health system and how they are experiencing this, as well as their views on the future prospects for the profession. The survey closes on 9 February.

Health Survey for England 2012

The [Health Survey for England 2012](#), published last month, provides information that cannot be obtained from other sources on a range of aspects concerning the public's health and many of the factors that affect health. The annual survey, commissioned by the Health and Social Care Information Centre, includes data on physical activity, alcohol consumption and obesity.

Mental health action plan published

The government has published a new mental health action plan, [Closing the Gap: priorities for essential change in mental health](#). It sets out 25 areas where fastest change is expected and how changes in local service planning and delivery will make a difference for adults and children with mental health problems. Professor Kevin Fenton, PHE's Director of Health and Wellbeing said: "This is a challenge that PHE is seizing with both hands, supporting local authorities in their work and providing national leadership on mental health for the public health system". For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

Clinical commissioning groups funding allocations published following adoption of a new formula

NHS England has [published the funding allocations](#) that clinical commissioning groups will receive over the next two years (2014 to 2015 and 2015 to 2016), which will see their funding rise from £96 billion to £100 billion. Following [an extensive review](#), which included [a submission from PHE](#), the NHS England board agreed a new funding formula for local health commissioning based on more accurate, detailed data and including a deprivation measure specifically aimed at tackling health inequalities. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

NICE guidance on behaviour change: individual approaches

NICE has published detailed public health [guidance](#) that makes recommendations on individual-level interventions aimed at changing health-damaging behaviours among people aged 16 or over. It includes interventions that will support people to improve their diet and become more physically active, lose weight if they are overweight or obese, stop smoking or reduce their alcohol intake.

No Smoking Day 2014

The British Heart Foundation's No Smoking Day will be on 12 March 2014. This year's theme is "V for Victory". See [here](#) for more information and to order a free campaign pack including a handbook, posters and leaflets.

Events news

PHE annual conference 2014

The PHE second annual conference will be held on 16-17 September 2014. A draft outline programme should be available in March.

PHE Board's fourth open meeting

The fourth meeting of [Public Health England's Board](#) will be held in public from 11am to 1.30pm on Monday 3 February 2014.

LGA Annual Public Health Conference – 4 February 2014

The Local Government Association's annual public health conference, run in partnership with the Association of Directors of Public Health, will be on 4 February in Birmingham. See [here](#) for details.

Peer challenge training event

The Local Government Association is running a free peer challenge training event in Coventry on 13-14 February 2014. See [here](#) for details.

Diabetes data and intelligence masterclasses

The next free regional masterclass from National Diabetes Information Service (NDIS) in England will be in Ely on 20 February. These events are for health professionals who are interested in finding out more about using diabetes data and intelligence to inform their service planning and improve quality of care and outcomes. To register or to see resources from previous masterclasses see [NDIS Masterclasses](#).

Infectious diseases in pregnancy screening event

A UK National Screening Committee event for those involved with the screening and subsequent management of screen positive women and their babies will be held on 20 February in London. See [here](#) for details.

NHS Health Check 2014 conference

The first national NHS Health Check conference will be held in London on 27 February 2014. It will be an opportunity to join key representatives from PHE, the

Local Government Association, NHS England and others to analyse how the programme has progressed since the transfer of responsibility to local government and its future potential. See [here](#) for details.

Health economics for public health practice and research course

Bangor University is holding a two-day short course on 16-17 April 2014 for those wishing to gain an appreciation of public health economics. For further information, contact Mrs Ann Lawton at cheme@bangor.ac.uk, telephone 01248 382153.

Cancer Outcomes Conference 2014

The Cancer Outcomes Conference 2014 of PHE's National Cancer Intelligence Network and United Kingdom and Ireland Association of Cancer Registries will be held on 9-10 June in Birmingham. See [here](#) for details.