



## Knowledge and intelligence: Public Health England's local contribution to the work of local government and the NHS

### Why is public health knowledge and intelligence important?

It is important that local government and local NHS partners have access to high quality public health knowledge and intelligence in order to can carry out their responsibilities effectively. This includes having access to robust evidence and information to support local health surveillance, needs assessment, benchmarking quality, comparing outcomes, developing plans and evaluating impact.

A major role of Public Health England (PHE) is to support local government and NHS partners by providing specialist expertise and advice, including public health intelligence support.

### How will the knowledge and intelligence work undertaken by PHE fit in at the local level?

Local intelligence teams in local government and the NHS are the first port of call for local intelligence enquiries. PHE will work in partnership with these teams.

In each locality, PHE will be involved in undertaking a combination of national and locally-tailored knowledge and intelligence work. PHE's locally-tailored work will be determined by business plans developed in collaboration with local partners to ensure that it is aligned with local needs and complements the work of local intelligence practitioners. The process for determining locally-tailored work will be consistent across the country, while the outcome of that process will be locally determined.

It is anticipated that PHE Centres and PHE Knowledge and Intelligence Teams (KITs) will have an on-going dialogue about, and review of, the local contribution with local partners.

### Will PHE produce knowledge and intelligence resources on a national basis?

PHE will continue to produce existing products and develop new ones on a "do once for all" basis; this will include indicators, profiles, tools and reports.

Many resources are already available, including the Public Health Outcomes Framework Data Tool, Health Profiles and topic-based resources from health intelligence networks, such as the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN), and specialist teams covering behavioural risk factors, such as obesity, and wider health determinants. A list of knowledge and intelligence products and services currently produced across PHE is available via the PHE website<sup>i</sup>. A Data and Knowledge

i. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chief-knowledge-officer-introduction-to-the-directorate>

Gateway is under development which in future will also include a catalogue of forthcoming resources, along with expected publication dates, helping to minimise the potential for duplicate pieces of work being undertaken simultaneously.

## Will there be local support in utilising these national resources?

Yes. PHE will take an active role in working with local intelligence partners to support the local use of nationally produced knowledge and intelligence output through active dissemination, helping with the local interpretation and application of national output, and facilitating the feedback process. KITs will act as the local presence for PHE's topic-based specialist intelligence resources, including NCIN and the new health intelligence networks that are being developed covering child and maternal health, cardiovascular disease, mental health and end of life care.

## Will I be able to influence the production of PHE's knowledge and intelligence resources?

Yes. We want to ensure that our resources meet the needs of local public health decision-makers. Part of PHE's local role is to help shape the provision of knowledge and intelligence nationally to ensure that the needs of our partners at local level are met.

Consequently, the role of KIT and Centre directors will be about enabling and shaping the service on behalf of the local partners. PHE will put in place local arrangements for feeding back local partner input around the development of new knowledge and intelligence products and the revision of existing products. The contribution will therefore be monitored, reviewed and revised on a regular basis.

## Can I contact PHE locally with intelligence queries and requests?

PHE will provide a local intelligence enquiry service through each PHE Centre and its respective KIT. The enquiry service will respond to queries from local partners regarding local and national PHE products, including signposting to available resources and sources of information, and referring enquiries to local and national intelligence experts where appropriate.

The PHE local enquiry services will also deal with local requests for aggregate hospital episode statistics data.

Local intelligence support (e.g. in local authorities) should remain the first port of call for local intelligence enquiries. Local KITs and Centres will consider requests for ad hoc pieces of work through a local process of assigning priorities.

## What local knowledge and intelligence work will PHE do?

PHE Centres will work alongside KITs locally to develop business plans in collaboration with local partners (including local authorities and NHS England). These will determine the type of work undertaken, including the specific nature of the intelligence analysis component.

## Can I request pieces of knowledge and intelligence work to be undertaken by PHE locally?

Ad hoc requests for pieces of work will be considered if they correspond clearly with local public health priorities and business plans, particularly if they relate to a wide geographical area, such as that covered by a PHE Centre or a Strategic Clinical Network.

## Will PHE contribute to local workforce development around knowledge and intelligence?

Yes. PHE will facilitate regional intelligence networks, for the purposes of sharing learning and supporting continuing professional development. It is intended that all regions will have an intelligence network, with consistent objectives across the country (although the composition and management of networks may vary).

Local arrangements will be made for a PHE contribution to training and professional development in the areas of public health evidence and intelligence.

Where possible, PHE will offer placements and secondments in knowledge and intelligence for internal and non-PHE staff, including specialty registrars in public health.

## Will PHE work with other intelligence providers?

Yes. PHE KITs and Centres will work in collaboration locally with colleagues in local government, NHS England and Commissioning Support Units to ensure that public health intelligence support is provided consistently and efficiently. PHE is already working closely with the Local Government Association (LGA) in relation to LG Inform, their on line support tool for local authorities, and in providing information to support councils undergoing the LGA Peer Challenge process.

Work is ongoing to ensure that knowledge and intelligence is linked up between PHE, the NHS and local government.

## Who in PHE will provide knowledge and intelligence at the local level?

The Chief Knowledge Officer's Directorate of PHE includes a network of eight KITs operating around the country. Together with NCIN and the new health intelligence networks, the KITs comprise the National Knowledge and Intelligence Service and provide analytical and knowledge management support and advice to PHE Centres, and to local authorities and the NHS, in collaboration with the Field Epidemiology Services in PHE's Health Protection Directorate.

PHE Centres act as the "front door" for the whole range of PHE services, although this is not intended to preclude direct communication between local partners and KITs and Field Epidemiology Services where appropriate.

KITs will work collaboratively with their local PHE Centres and Field Epidemiology Services to ensure that knowledge and intelligence support is fully integrated into PHE's wider "offer" to meet the needs of local government and the local NHS.

## Will PHE's knowledge and intelligence contribution be consistent across the country?

The underlying principle is that the same level of core service will be provided by PHE consistently across the country. However, it is acknowledged that local needs and arrangements will vary across the country. The detail of how the core service is delivered and the prioritising of its work will therefore be locally determined. PHE will work with local partners to develop specific local business plans and delivery models in each PHE Centre area.

Local stakeholders will also have the option of negotiating a fee-based locally-enhanced intelligence service from PHE.

## How can I contact PHE locally?

<b>Knowledge &amp; Intelligence Team Directors</b>		
East	Julian Flowers	<a href="mailto:Julian.flowers@phe.gov.uk">Julian.flowers@phe.gov.uk</a>
East Midlands	David Meechan	<a href="mailto:David.meechan@phe.gov.uk">David.meechan@phe.gov.uk</a>
London	Elizabeth Davies	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.davies@phe.gov.uk">Elizabeth.davies@phe.gov.uk</a>
North West	Clare Perkins (acting)	<a href="mailto:Clare.perkins@phe.gov.uk">Clare.perkins@phe.gov.uk</a>
Northern & Yorkshire	Brian Ferguson	<a href="mailto:Brian.ferguson@phe.gov.uk">Brian.ferguson@phe.gov.uk</a>
South East	Monica Roche (acting)	<a href="mailto:Monica.roche@phe.gov.uk">Monica.roche@phe.gov.uk</a>
South West	Julia Verne	<a href="mailto:Julia.verne@phe.gov.uk">Julia.verne@phe.gov.uk</a>
West Midlands	Paul Brown and Justine Fitzpatrick (acting)	<a href="mailto:Paul.Brown@phe.gov.uk">Paul.Brown@phe.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Justine.Fitzpatrick@phe.gov.uk">Justine.Fitzpatrick@phe.gov.uk</a>
<b>Health intelligence networks</b>		
	Chris Carrigan	<a href="mailto:Chirs.Carrigan@phe.gov.uk">Chirs.Carrigan@phe.gov.uk</a>

<b>PHE Centre Directors</b>		
Anglia & Essex	Gina Radford	<a href="mailto:Gina.radford@phe.gov.uk">Gina.radford@phe.gov.uk</a>
Avon, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire	Shona Arora	<a href="mailto:Centredirector.agw@phe.gov.uk">Centredirector.agw@phe.gov.uk</a>
Cheshire & Merseyside	Sam Ghebrehewet (acting)	<a href="mailto:Sam.Ghebrehewet@phe.gov.uk">Sam.Ghebrehewet@phe.gov.uk</a>
Cumbria & Lancashire	Jane Rossini	<a href="mailto:Jane.rossini@phe.gov.uk">Jane.rossini@phe.gov.uk</a>
Devon, Cornwall & Somerset	Debra Laphorne	<a href="mailto:Debra.laphorne@phe.gov.uk">Debra.laphorne@phe.gov.uk</a>
East Midlands	Fu-Meng Khaw	<a href="mailto:Meng.khaw@phe.gov.uk">Meng.khaw@phe.gov.uk</a>
Greater Manchester	Martyn Regan	<a href="mailto:Martyn.regan@phe.gov.uk">Martyn.regan@phe.gov.uk</a>
Kent, Surrey & Sussex	Graham Bickler	<a href="mailto:Graham.bickler@phe.gov.uk">Graham.bickler@phe.gov.uk</a>
London	Yvonne Doyle	<a href="mailto:Yvonne.doyle@phe.gov.uk">Yvonne.doyle@phe.gov.uk</a>
North East	Roberta Marshall	<a href="mailto:Roberta.marshall@phe.gov.uk">Roberta.marshall@phe.gov.uk</a>
South Midlands & Hertfordshire	Jenifer Smith	<a href="mailto:Jenifer.smith@phe.gov.uk">Jenifer.smith@phe.gov.uk</a>
Thames Valley	Diana Grice	<a href="mailto:Diana.grice@phe.gov.uk">Diana.grice@phe.gov.uk</a>
Wessex	Jim O'Brien	<a href="mailto:Jim.obrien@phe.gov.uk">Jim.obrien@phe.gov.uk</a>
West Midlands	Sue Ibbotson	<a href="mailto:Sue.ibbotson@phe.gov.uk">Sue.ibbotson@phe.gov.uk</a>
Yorkshire & Humber	Stephen Morton	<a href="mailto:Stephen.morton@phe.gov.uk">Stephen.morton@phe.gov.uk</a>

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