



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive

Friday message

Friday 19 June 2015

Dear everyone

Over the past two weeks I have had the great pleasure of visiting our regional laboratories in Manchester and Bristol. These are two of the eight laboratories we run with our colleagues in the NHS. What is striking is the quality and depth, built up over many years, of profound partnership and comradeship with the NHS and universities. It was a privilege to see the extraordinary science at work and to meet with staff who spearheaded our on-the-ground response to Ebola in West Africa. I also met members of staff who will be working there in the coming months. In Bristol, there is a real swell of excitement regarding the move to their new, purpose-built facilities. The work in Manchester investigating Meningococcal epidemiology is a reminder of the fundamental role our laboratories play in protecting our health. This will be a foundation stone of the new National Infection Service.

Earlier this week, together with Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England and David Pearson, immediate past President of ADASS, I joined a system leaders' seminar to develop a common, integrated approach across all sectors to encourage community empowerment and engagement. In the past two weeks alone I have seen great examples of community development at work – for example, the volunteer TB buddies in Redbridge, the community builders in Torbay and the Welly Café in Bury, an extraordinary community asset bringing opportunity for work and hope to the most vulnerable. The social capital that the voluntary and community sector generate is literally priceless and through the Think Local Act Personal partnership we will be doing what further we can to support community-centred approaches. I would encourage everyone to join the discussion at [regional events](#) in July.

On Wednesday I contributed to the annual conference of the National Information Board, where Diarmaid Crean, our digital lead, also shared our work on an endorsement model for health and care apps. We are leading this high profile workstream in partnership with NICE, and their Chief Executive Sir Andrew Dillon and I jointly chair the Programme Board. The aim is to develop a model that will provide NHS 'branded' apps which will help people to better manage their health and support them in dealing with illness and disability. There are currently more than 300,000 health and care apps and the NHS endorsement model will assess and promote only those which are proven to provide evidence-based, effective outcomes and which health and care professionals can recommend with confidence. The next phase of development will continue through to the end of the year, with further engagement and pilots, with a view to launching in early 2016.

Also on Wednesday, we published the [2015 Child Health Profiles](#), which provide a snapshot of child health and wellbeing for each local authority in England in an easily accessible format. We hope these to be a valuable tool for local government and local health commissioners, giving them an insight into the health of children and young people in their communities. These not only enable them to provide tailored support and services, they also facilitate the sharing of best practice and practical information on what works. The profiles contain data on a wide range of issues about and affecting child health, from MMR immunisation rates, levels of childhood obesity, teenage pregnancy and underage drinking, to hospital admissions, educational performance and youth crime.

And finally, congratulations to our HIV and sexual health expert, Professor Jane Anderson who was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday honours, and to dental consultant Jennifer Godson who was awarded an OBE. Well deserved recognition of their outstanding work in their respective fields.

With best wishes