



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive

Friday message

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Dear everyone

On Monday, we launched a new tool to help local authorities prevent or reduce the impact of alcohol harm. Alcohol is a risk factor for more than 60 medical conditions including heart disease, liver disease, depression and a number of cancers. However, the harm from alcohol goes far beyond individual health. It can affect families, friends and communities, and contributes to violent crime, domestic violence and absence from work. We also know that the impact of alcohol harm falls disproportionately on the more vulnerable people in society, and so supporting local authorities to reduce alcohol harm will help to reduce health inequalities as well. Our new evidence-based [CLear self-assessment for alcohol](#) builds on the success of the tobacco control CLear tool and provides a framework for local partnerships to review local structures and alcohol services. It aims to help local areas identify opportunities for development and agree place-based action plans to drive improvements. Your local PHE centre will be able to provide support in making use of this tool and we have already had positive [feedback](#) from those involved in the pilot stage.

This week I met with Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation at the UK Statistics Authority, who reminded me that the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) continues to set the standard for clear presentation of data and is of great value for local teams looking to understand the health of their populations. For example, the PHOF can be used to examine trends in measures of [inequality in life expectancy](#) within local authorities. Profiles of indicators for a particular area can be [produced](#), and compared with similar local authorities defined by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, such as [Nottingham with Newcastle](#) and so on. We are constantly looking at ways of developing the presentation of this data and expanding this practical tool, so please do send ideas through to phof.enquiries@phe.gov.uk.

On Tuesday we highlighted [resources](#) produced earlier this year by PHE, the LGBT Foundation and the Terrence Higgins Trust to raise awareness about Shigella. PHE figures show a sustained increase in cases among men who have sex with men in recent years, particularly in London, Brighton and Manchester. The leaflets and posters aim to support local healthcare settings to highlight the symptoms of Shigella, as well as information on how it is transmitted and what people can do to prevent it.

Along with NHS England and Diabetes UK, we continue to roll out services to prevent Type 2 diabetes across the country, with nearly half of England now covered as part of the Healthier You: NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (NDPP). Next year a second wave of the programme will reach a further 25% of the population. In order to select areas that are best placed to participate, we are asking clinical commissioning groups and local authority partners that wish to provide NDPP services in 2017/18 to work together to submit an expression of interest. [Tools and resources](#) are available to support the preparation of bids, which need to be submitted to england.ndpp@nhs.net by 3 October 2016.

And finally, ITV will switch off for an hour at 9.30am tomorrow to encourage people to get outside. It is all part of [I Am Team GB](#) – the nation's biggest sports day – with a range of free activities available across the UK. Our recent [Health Matters](#) series on physical activity showed that getting active every day can make a real difference to health. Do take a look at what's happening in your area. More hints and tips on getting active at any age are available through [Change4Life](#), [OneYou](#) and [NHS Choices](#).

With best wishes