



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive

Friday message

Friday 11 December 2015

Dear everyone

Flooding has made this a difficult week for people living across the north of England, particularly in Cumbria and Lancashire. Our health protection teams in the North West and our environmental experts based at Chilton have been working tirelessly as part of the multi-agency response. There are many challenges still facing residents and businesses. The public health concerns most often arise in the aftermath of flooding, in ensuring that homes are made habitable, transport is working and the water is safe, essentially the clean-up operation, and I want to say a big thank you to everyone involved.

On the Spending Review, I have spoken since the announcement with many of you and it is worth reiterating that I do not regard a cut in funding as good but that in all the circumstances, a 9.6% cash reduction over the coming five years was the best outcome achievable. I fully understand the difficulties local authorities and Directors of Public Health are now facing and it is within the wider context of big pressures on local government spending. The savings requirement for next year is 2.2% which is at the better end of most of the rest of public services. None of us want to see any of the momentum developed by having public health back in local government put at risk. This is a leadership moment for Directors of Public Health and for PHE nationally and locally. Being in the room, having the argument about how to balance the budget and in the best possible way for the public's health is a tougher ask than being outside of it and commentating. PHE stands ready to assist in every practical way in the discussions being held across the country, recognising these are for local decision but also that the ring fence remains in place and that it is essential that decisions on public health spend comply with the conditions of the grant so that it is only spent on activities whose main or primary purpose is to improve the health of local people.

You may be aware of the Academy of Fab NHS Stuff which was independently established by Roy Lilley, the well-known health journalist, to celebrate genuine achievement in the patient and public interest. Our Chief Nurse team has led a partnership in support of young carers who often have the poorest health outcomes due to their caring role, with over 170,000 children and young people providing more than 18 hours of care each week. The partnership has involved the School and Public Health Nurses Association, the Carers Trust and many others including, most importantly, young carers themselves. So I am delighted to say that on Tuesday this week, at the first annual Academy of Fab NHS Stuff Awards, our partnership programme won the Penguin Award, aptly named, for teamwork and this has brought great credit to all those involved. Well done.

Yesterday we published the second edition of [Health Matters](#), focusing this time on tackling antimicrobial resistance, via a national teleconference. *Health Matters* brings together key facts, figures and evidence of effective interventions to tackle major public health problems and contains a suite of resources for people to use including infographics for [download](#) and the arguments for why local antimicrobial stewardship policies are so important. Please do share these.

On Wednesday I visited the Airedale NHS Foundation Trust and met leaders from local government, the NHS and CCGs. Airedale is one of the vanguard sites in the new models of care and one where I act as senior sponsor. I was enormously impressed by their ambition to support people to be as well as they can, for as long as possible and in the place where they normally live, as this speaks to the best of collaborative system working and what people and their families most want. Also their adoption of telemedicine as an enabler of this is frankly inspiring.

With best wishes