



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

# PHE Board Paper

**Title of meeting** PHE Board  
**Date** Wednesday 23 March 2016  
**Sponsor** Deborah McKenzie  
**Title of paper** **The Public Health Workforce of the Future**

## 1. Purpose of the paper

- 1.1 The purpose of the discussion is to explore the challenges and opportunities facing the public health workforce and the system response to these, and to agree how the Board would like to be involved in future developments.

Board members will have the opportunity to hear views from an expert panel on what needs to happen next to develop the public health workforce, and PHE's role in this. Speakers include:

### **Shirley Cramer CBE**

Chief Executive, Royal Society of Public Health and Chair of the People in UK Public Health Group

### **Jon Sutcliffe**

Local Government Association Workforce Strategy Team

### **Meradin Peachey**

Director of Public Health, London Borough of Newham and Vice President for Standards, Faculty of Public Health

### **Andrew Furber**

President, Association of Directors of Public Health

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is asked to **COMMENT** on:
- a) the challenges & opportunities for the Public Health workforce, and how the system might respond
  - b) PHE's role in this in future
  - c) how best the Board would like to be informed of progress/involved in future development of the public health workforce.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 During 2015/16 PHE has carried out a review of the public health workforce of the

future, to identify key drivers for change, the impact on the workforce, and how the system might respond.

3.2 Key drivers identified were:

Demography, increasing demand for health and social care, the need to achieve 'ill health prevention at scale', rapid change and complex system working, public sector finance and reform, global and environmental health issues, and technological advances.

3.3 Key themes emerging from the review that require a system response include:

- a) Creating an attractive career
- b) Developing a stronger social movement for health
- c) Building skills for the 21st Century
- d) Strengthening systems thinking and leadership
- e) Ensuring resilience, flexibility and mobility