



Public Health  
England

# Wessex Centre Prospectus

Archived December 2017

## About Public Health England

Public Health England's mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities through working with national and local government, the NHS, industry and the voluntary and community sector. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

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## Introduction

Our job is to champion the health of people in England and provide highly specialised public health support services to the local government public health system, the NHS and other public health partners.

The big health challenge is the impact of an ageing population and the increasing burden of chronic diseases particularly heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes. Sadly good health is not experienced equally and reducing the unacceptable health inequalities experienced by some groups of the population remains an important goal. Alongside that is the need to be ever vigilant and responsive to infectious diseases, environmental hazards and the potential for deliberate threats to health.

The Wessex Centre is one of 15 centres in England. We are part of the national organisation PHE, which was established on 1 April 2013. We are part of the South of England region.

This prospectus provides information about the services, skills and resources that we can offer from the PHE Wessex Centre to local stakeholders.

Key points about Wessex:

- a population of 2.7 million people
- local authorities: two county, five unitary and 22 district/borough
- six health and wellbeing boards
- nine clinical commissioning groups
- two local resilience forums
- four strategic clinical networks
- one local education and training board
- one academic health science network
- public health teams in universities



## Our mission

To work with and alongside others to protect and improve the public's health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities. We use our specialist knowledge and skills to advocate; apply knowledge, evidence and insight; transparently report outcomes; and nurture the public health system and workforce.

## Leadership

Our centre director is Dr Jim O'Brien (pictured right).



## Our core offer

Our core offer is targeted at organisations that commission services for local people. These are the seven local authorities that cover Dorset, Bournemouth, Poole, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (also known as Wessex) and the NHS England Wessex Area Team. We also work in partnership with a wide range of other organisations in the public, community and private sectors, and we hope this prospectus is of interest to you all.

# Improving health

## Partnership working

PHE can only support improvements in health by working with partner organisations across Wessex:

- we lead, oversee, co-ordinate and deliver high-quality specialist technical and professional public health, advice and support to central and local government to help drive improvements in health outcomes and reduction in health inequalities across Wessex, based on evidence and cost effectiveness
- we facilitate networks of public health professionals as agreed with directors of public health. These networks support the most frequently identified priorities in local health and wellbeing strategies
- we work alongside the NHS England Wessex Area Team to support the development and commissioning of services, which best meet the needs and priorities of the local population
- we organise seminars to provide you with an opportunity to review the evidence, the cost effectiveness of interventions and how well we are doing to improve health across Wessex
- we contribute and bring expertise and resources to networks, and groups and provide training that help build and sustain strategic alliances and academic partnerships to:
  - support implementation of the most effective practice
  - inform service improvements
  - stimulate innovations in health and wellbeing, health protection and health services
- we identify and assess the impact of health and care policies and strategies and use our findings to influence health improvements and a reduction in health inequalities

The health improvement areas we support are summarised within this prospectus. In addition, we work with partners and support delivery of the following programmes of work:

- NHS Health Check
- tobacco control
- children, young people and families
- healthy weight and obesity
- HIV and sexual health
- the ageing population, including long-term conditions
- workplace health
- mental health and wellbeing



**Contact: Jim O'Brien Tel: 01489 563556 Email: [jim.obrien@phe.gov.uk](mailto:jim.obrien@phe.gov.uk)**

## Advocating for the public's health

- we engage actively nationally, regionally and locally in the debates that affect the public's health
- we lead national campaigns and support local campaigns with evidence-based toolkits
- we ensure major risks to public health are raised and addressed in partnership with Local Resilience Executive member organisations across Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Dorset together with two local resilience health partnerships
- we advocate for evidence-based interventions that produce measurable improvements in oral health at population level, particularly for children
- we facilitate the inclusion of oral health and other health improvement issues in discussions at health and wellbeing boards and local networks
- we work with local and national voluntary groups and patient organisations, in order to improve local services
- we represent the local view at a national level identifying any unique issues

## Dental public health

We are the principal providers of dental public health expertise in Wessex. We work as part of a national specialist network to:

- support the surveillance of local oral health including leading the Wessex dental epidemiology programme in line with national protocols
- provide local authorities with information, advice and support on all aspects of oral health, particularly on population and targeted measures to improve oral health and reduce oral health inequalities
- support NHS England Wessex with the development and commissioning of primary, secondary and specialist dental services appropriate to local needs and priorities, facilitating equity of access to dental care
- engage and work with local clinicians and commissioners to achieve best possible outcomes for patients including advising on clinical priorities and supporting the evaluation and redesign of clinical care pathways

**Contact: Dr Jeyanthi John Tel: 02380 725533 Mobile: 07769 282550**  
**Email: [jeyanthi.john@phe.gov.uk](mailto:jeyanthi.john@phe.gov.uk)**

## Drug and alcohol services

We provide authoritative guidance, tools and data, and offer active support to local authorities and health and justice services, focusing on:

- the new public health opportunity to address the root causes and wider determinants of drug dependence and alcohol misuse
- continued improvement in rates of drug recovery
- the roll out of identification and brief advice for at risk users of alcohol
- increased availability of hospital alcohol liaison nurses and the improvement of local alcohol treatment

**Contact: Tracey Goodhew, Wessex Lead. Tel: 020 7972 1878 Mobile: 07795 036479  
Email: [tracey.goodhew@phe.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.goodhew@phe.gov.uk)**

**Contact: Linda Stent, Prisons Lead. Tel: 020 7972 1878 Mobile: 07887 792393  
Email: [linda.stent@phe.gov.uk](mailto:linda.stent@phe.gov.uk)**

## Health and justice services

We work in partnership with health and social care commissioners and service providers to identify and meet the health needs of people in prisons and other prescribed detention settings, as well as those in contact with the criminal justice system in the community. Our work involves:

- gathering and providing evidence and intelligence to inform and support the work of local and national commissioners and service providers
- supporting partners in the development of care pathways that account for the movement of people around the detention estate and between prescribed detention settings and the community
- leading the management and control of outbreaks of infectious diseases in prisons and other places of detention
- producing evidence-based guidelines and advice on all aspects of public health in prisons, including health protection, health promotion and healthcare public health
- supporting partner organisations in developing and delivering appropriate screening and immunisation programmes according to the need of the population and consistent with PHE's role in the wider community
- supporting partners in conducting health needs assessments or other formal public health activities to assess the health and wellbeing of people in prisons
- working with partners to ensure continuity of care across the prison estate and on release back to the community

Area covered is Wessex and Thames Valley. The lead is based in Chilton, near Oxford.

**Contact: Sunita Sturup-Toft. Tel: 0345 279 9879 Email: [sunita.sturup-toft@phe.gov.uk](mailto:sunita.sturup-toft@phe.gov.uk)**



## Social marketing and public health communications

PHE has a national social marketing team and provides public health communications advice at a regional and centre level:

- we have good cascade systems in place between the regional communications team, the centres and the local authority communications teams
- we hold biannual regional marketing workshops to discuss with local teams the range of marketing campaigns from the national team
- we publish a regular newsletter about campaigns and events, with associated tracker, that provides detail on how to access resources and adapt information and toolkits for local use
- we maintain a public health campaigns resource centre with website at <http://campaigns.dh.gov.uk>

Contact: Teresa Cash, Wessex Lead. Tel: 01403 214557

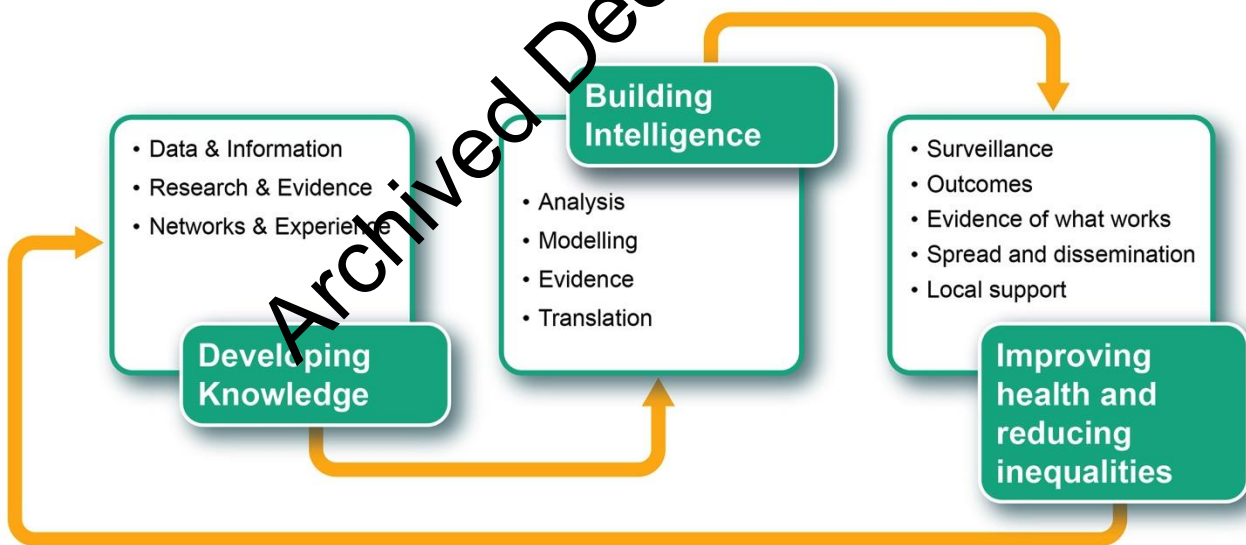
Email: [teresa.cash@phe.gov.uk](mailto:teresa.cash@phe.gov.uk)



# Knowledge and intelligence and healthcare public health

## Providing the knowledge and intelligence you need

- we work in collaboration with colleagues in local government, NHS England, commissioning support units and other partners to ensure that public health evidence, intelligence and information is provided consistently and efficiently
- we do this through active and targeted dissemination, helping with local interpretation of data, and advice on how to use national databases and interactive tools
- we provide a local intelligence enquiry service that is responsive to local needs and which:
  - responds to queries from partners regarding local and national public health data
  - signposts enquirers to available resources and sources of information
  - refers enquiries to local and national intelligence experts where appropriate
  - deals with local requests for aggregate hospital episode statistics (HES) data



- we provide advice, guidance, services and tools that include: data mapping and signposting, analysis and analytical reporting, reviews of evidence, health atlases, profiles, evaluation tools that support research, evaluation, surveillance, return on investment, cost and clinical effectiveness, etc
- we act as the local presence for topic-based specialist intelligence networks covering cancer, child and maternal health, cardiovascular disease, mental health

and end-of-life care and support the Wessex Strategic Clinical Networks and other partners

- we provide high-quality surveillance of risk factors, diseases and conditions that impact on people's health and inform and support the practice of public health and help make improvements in people's health
- we champion the benefits and uses of, and lead on, joint strategies and approaches relating to health data and intelligence
- we invest in economic modelling that provides robust return on investment models for social care, local government and the NHS
- we communicate and disseminate critically appraised evidence and reports to relevant stakeholders to support evidence-based work programmes
- we undertake ad hoc pieces of work that cover Wessex, reflect local priorities set out in health and wellbeing strategies and business plans

The local Wessex PHE Centre and South East Knowledge & Intelligence Team (KIT) work together and will liaise with you and your colleagues so that the public health intelligence support provided locally is as effective as possible.

Information about public health topics and resources, together with a list of knowledge and intelligence services and tools currently produced by PHE, is available via our website [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)

The Data and Knowledge Gateway site at [datagateway.phe.org.uk](http://datagateway.phe.org.uk) is a single destination point for access to data and analysis tools, provided by PHE, on almost all public health topics. It includes a catalogue of resources and expected publication dates.

Local intelligence support in local authorities remains the first port of call for local intelligence enquiries. Requests for ad hoc pieces of work should be directed to the Wessex Centre director or PHE's director of knowledge and intelligence – South East.

**Contact: Dr Monica Roche. Tel: 01865 334772 Email: [monica.roche@phe.gov.uk](mailto:monica.roche@phe.gov.uk)**

# Healthcare public health

## Screening and Immunisation

- we work alongside the NHS England Wessex Area Team, which is the commissioner of all cancer and non-cancer screening and immunisation services, to support delivery of current, extended and new programmes
- we provide expert clinical and technical advice on immunisation queries that are more complex, beyond the scope of the “Green Book: national guidance on immunisation against infectious diseases for professionals” and provide advice on post exposure vaccination (via Acute Response Team) in the Wessex Centre

For links to immunisation and screening websites in the UK, please see page 9.

**For the Wessex Public Health Commissioning Team, NHS England, contact:  
Tel: 0113 8249803 Email: [england.wessexph@nhs.net](mailto:england.wessexph@nhs.net)**

## Commissioning advice

- we work alongside the NHS England Wessex Area Team and local authorities to support, advise and help deliver their direct and specialised health care service commissioning functions
- we identify and assess the impact of health and care policies and strategies and use our findings to influence your commissioning decisions for health improvement, health care services and reducing health inequalities
- we help identify trends and provide the data to encourage early intervention in protecting and improving health
- we lead and participate in quality and efficiency programmes that relate to healthcare public health
- we provide expert, independent, clinical healthcare public health support to the NHS England Wessex specialised commissioning team via a dedicated consultant post. This post also contributes to the national work programme for specialised commissioning. Specifically this post provides:
  - an epidemiological and population-based perspective
  - clinical advice and support
  - advice on clinical effectiveness and evidence-based commissioning, including evaluation of new models of delivery and cost effectiveness

## Specialised commissioning:

**Contact: Dr Sally Nelson. Tel: 023 8072 5569 Email: [sally.nelson1@nhs.net](mailto:sally.nelson1@nhs.net)**

## Support innovation and evaluation

- PHE is committed to supporting local innovation and ensuring it is evaluated and scaled up
- we help to identify funding that can support your local innovations
- we are committed to finding, evaluating and spreading effective interventions
- we publish details and outcomes of local oral health projects in journals so they are quality assured to have withstood peer-review and scrutiny
- we work with local health care providers to monitor and improve clinical outcomes of care
- we work with local academic departments to develop joint projects, which will benefit the local population and add to the national evidence base

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# Protecting health

## Health protection and emergency planning

We deliver high-quality health protection services across Wessex 24/7 by:

- responding to individual cases of infectious disease and incidents caused by infection or non-infectious environmental hazards, working with local partners such as environment health departments and others as required
- using high-quality field epidemiology services during the investigation of outbreaks of infectious disease and non-infectious incidents in order to identify factors for interventions
- providing access to microbiological testing services to support health protection work through PHE's clinical and food, water and environmental testing microbiology laboratories
- providing access to specialist advice from the PHE Centre for Chemicals, Radiation and Environmental Hazards
- undertaking surveillance of infections of public health importance locally and nationally and responding to new threats when they arise, such as newly discovered viruses
- leading and participating in multi-agency programmes that aim to prevent, mitigate or control risks associated with threats to health such as tuberculosis
- communicating with individuals (public and professionals), settings (such as GPs, schools and care homes) or populations on actual or perceived threats to health from infection or non-infectious hazards
- strengthening contingency planning and resilience to infectious and environmental hazards



We deliver high-quality training, development and exercising opportunities in emergency preparedness and provide leadership and support to scientific technical advice cells, which provide a common source of health, scientific and technical advice in a major incident situation.



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**Contact:**

**Health protection services:** An acute response team is available during normal working hours from the Wessex Centre office in Whiteley. An on-call service is provided out-of-hours for urgent matters. The team responds quickly to email enquiries. Urgent issues must be telephoned through.

**Contact: Acute Response Team Tel: 0345 055 2022 (working hours)**

**Tel: 0844 967 0082 (out of hours) Email: [wessex@phe.gov.uk](mailto:wessex@phe.gov.uk)**

## Developing the public health workforce

- a high-quality workforce is the key to the new public health system
- workforce development advice and support is organised by a team working with directors of public health, PHE, Health Education Wessex and the Wessex Local Education and Training Board and others
- we will develop a description of the workforce in Wessex, identifying key gaps and timetabled plans to fill them
- we support local authorities in making director of public health and consultant appointments and succession planning
- we develop and maintain PHE's professional appraisal system that supports the development of senior public health professionals across local government, the academic workforce and PHE
- we work with colleagues in local government and Health Education England to ensure that specialty and practitioner training in public health develops public health professionals with the skills and experience to thrive and deliver in a political environment
- we support and ensure the delivery of training and development that equips the wider public health workforce for the challenges ahead
- we actively manage the talent in the public health system to maximise the impact we can have on the population's health and wellbeing

**Contact: Regional lead: Dr Judy Curson Mobile: 07970 799162**  
**Email: [judy.curson@phe.gov.uk](mailto:judy.curson@phe.gov.uk)**





## Useful website addresses

Public Health England: [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)

Data and Knowledge: <http://datagateway.phe.org.uk>

PHE priorities: [PHE Business Plan 2014 to 2015 page](#)

Public health campaigns: <http://campaigns.dh.gov.uk>

PHE Immunisation:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation)

UK Screening Portal: [www.screening.nhs.uk](http://www.screening.nhs.uk)

NHS Cancer Screening Programmes: [www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk](http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk)

CPD for Screening: <http://cpd.screening.nhs.uk>

Longer Lives: <http://longerlives.phe.org.uk>

Wessex Public Health Network: <http://wessexphnetwork.org.uk>

Global Burden of Disease – Health Statistics:

[http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global\\_burden\\_disease/about/en/](http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/about/en/)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence: [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

Public Health Outcomes Framework: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-health-outcomes-framework>

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# Our priorities are your priorities

PHE in Wessex has seven national priorities. Reflected below is a summary of national priorities linked to our core offer and to local actions. More information about our national priorities can be found at: [PHE Business Plan 2014 to 2015 page](#)

## 1. Reducing preventable deaths

- support people to live healthier lives by implementing NHS Health Check Programme
- accelerate efforts to promote tobacco control and reduce the prevalence of smoking
- report on premature mortality and the Public Health Outcomes Framework
- enable improved integration of care, to support local innovations to find alternatives to hospital-based care

## 2. Reducing the burden of disease

- reduce the impact of dementia
- improve recovery rates from drug and alcohol dependency
- improve sexual health and reduce the burden of sexually transmitted infections
- improve access to early diagnosis of HIV
- develop a programme on mental health in public health

## 3. Protecting the country's health

- reverse the current trends so that we reduce the rates of tuberculosis infections
- Implement current and new immunisation and screening programmes and improve uptake
- tackle antimicrobial resistance
- implement a national surveillance strategy
- monitor notifications of infectious disease and respond rapidly to cases, outbreaks and incidents involving communicable disease chemical, radiation or other environmental hazards that require public health action, advice, co-ordination or leadership
- ensure resilience through emergency planning, preparedness and response to emergencies and major incidents

#### 4. Giving children and young people the best start in life

- promote healthy weight and tackle childhood obesity
- partner the Troubled Families Programme
- improve oral health and reduce oral health inequalities
- accelerate improvements in child health outcomes
- partner the Early Intervention Foundation, including the Family Nurse Partnerships, and help tackle the root causes of social problems amongst children and young people by providing commissioners and providers with evidence to enable them to make the best choices for supporting children and families

#### 5. Improving health in the workplace

- support employers, large and small, to establish the business case for supporting a healthy workforce
- encourage more widespread adoption of the Responsibility Deal commitment on mental health adjustments in the workplace
- encourage and enable staff to lead healthy lifestyles

#### 6. Promoting place-based public health systems

- make the business case for promoting wellbeing, prevention and early intervention as the best approaches to improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities
- partner NHS England to maximise the NHS's impact on improving the public's health
- ensure that we use evidence, data and information across the public health system to demonstrate value for money and return on investment

#### 7. Developing the workforce

- implement the public health workforce strategy and support development of the workforce
- ensure the delivery of training and development that equips the wide public health workforce for the challenges ahead
- actively manage the talent in the public health system to maximise the impact we can have on the population's health and wellbeing
- enable our workforce to make every contact count, by giving advice and information that protects and improves the health of local people