



Minutes

Title of meeting Public Health England Advisory Board
Date Wednesday 18 July 2018

Present	<p>Sir Derek Myers Michael Brodie Paul Cosford Yvonne Doyle Richard Gleave Sian Griffiths George Griffin Richard Parish Duncan Selbie</p>	<p>Interim Chair Finance and Commercial Director Director of Health Protection and Medical Director Director, London Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer Interim Deputy Chair Non-executive Non-executive Chief Executive</p>
In attendance	<p>Lee Bailey Derrick Crook Andrew Dougal Professor Sir Andy Haines Jeanelle De Gruchy Alison Giles Richard Gleave Martin Hindle Adrian Masters John Middleton John Newton Liz Parks Chrissie Pickin Simon Reeve David Rhodes Rachel Scott Alex Sienkiewicz Harriet Wallace</p>	<p>Director of Communications Director, National Infection Service, PHE Chair, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland Expert Panel Member President, Association of Directors of Public Health Interim Chief Executive, UK Health Forum Deputy Chief Executive, PHE Independent member, PHE Audit and Risk Committee Director of Strategy, PHE President, Faculty of Public Health Director for Health Improvement Expert Panel Member Executive Director of Health and Wellbeing, Public Health Wales Department of Health and Social Care Director of Environmental Public Health Board Secretary, PHE Director of Corporate Affairs Expert Panel Member</p>
Apologies	<p>Michael Hearty Poppy Jaman</p>	<p>Associate non-executive Non-executive</p>

There were two members of the public present.

Announcements, apologies, declarations of interest

18/057 Apologies were noted and no interests were declared in relation to the agenda.

PHE's Environmental Public Health Work

18/058 The Director for Health Protection and Medical Director introduced the panel themed topic.

- 18/059 The environment had a significant impact on the health of the population and was a major programme of work within PHE. This included work on air pollution and mortality and the environment as a major driver of health inequalities. There were a number of challenges which needed to be addressed, including how best to bring together the number of interested stakeholders in the environment, and ensuring that the environment linked to all aspects of health.
- 18/060 The Director for Environmental Public Health set out how PHE intended to respond to these challenges through the development of its Environmental Public Health Strategy. This continued to be a core mission to PHE and work was taking place to explore further those known impacts on environmental health, and linking this across to all impacts on health. It linked across a number of PHE's priority areas and, in all instances, aimed to provide the evidence base underpinning regulations and standards.
- 18/061 The Advisory Board heard from the expert panel and raised the following:
- a) climate change had significant impact on human health, including on food production and water stress. This included the reduction food yields, nutritional quality and the impact on pricing;
 - b) the environment was a substantial asset, which should be used to promote health. There was a great deal of work taking place to best explore this, including whether waste could be used as an asset and proposals such as those being explored in California to move towards a carbon-free economy;
 - c) there needed to be a move towards an environmentally sustainable health system and to demonstrate what could practically be done to support this. This needed clear engagement with the public;
 - d) work should focus on the premise that the environment enhances health and that the opportunities for this were exploited. It was recognised that with the publication of Defra's '*A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*' there was significant opportunity to use momentum and the opportunities for engagement;
 - e) joint working across government departments was essential as was the adoption of systems based approaches. PHE had an important leadership role to play, particularly in demonstrating the science and technical expertise and developing a compelling case for action. Directors of Public Health also had an essential leadership role at a local level; and
 - f) air quality was a critical programme of work which required both local and national action. This included indoor air quality and evidence and interventions needed to be considered in their broadest sense beyond the mortality impact.
- 18/062 A discussion of the Advisory Board followed and the following points were raised:
- a) PHE should exploit its profile globally to seek opportunities to scale up its environmental public health work, including its support to the National Adaptation Plan and ensuring that linkages were made with other countries and NGOs;
 - b) PHE should assess its leadership role at the local level, particularly when considering the overarching health and care system and sustainability in hospitals. It was recommend that this be included in the Environmental Public

Health Strategy;

- c) environmental public health highlighted the importance of action where people lived, and how they lived their lives;
- d) it was recommended that engagement take place with industry, particularly when considering food systems and novel and innovative approaches to be developed;
- e) the development and implementation of the environmental public health strategy should provide the opportunity for PHE to best establish how it could address these challenges in future, including ensuring that the workforce had the relevant skills and training; and
- f) PHE should consider how to best utilise its assets in addressing these challenges and how it could best continue to support the implementation of Defra's 25 year plan.

18/063 The Advisory Board thanked the expert panel for their contributions and the work of the PHE team for their work in developing the Environmental Public Health Strategy.

Directors' Updates

18/064 The Director, National Infection Service advised that:

- a) the implementation of the new National Infection Service arrangements continued with the majority of the Senior Leadership Team in post. Work was underway to develop an Infectious Disease Strategy with the aim of increasing the efficiency and impact of the work of the service;
- b) as part of the organisational changes, the Field Epidemiology Service was being developed with a number of colleagues recruited as part of the new arrangements; and
- c) PHE teams had provided support to the recent reported shortages of CO2. The impact to PHE's own operations had been limited.

18/065 The Director, London advised that:

- a) the Mayor of London had appointed an independent obesity task force. This was a cross-sector body which aimed to include the voices of young people as part of its work. The taskforce would be developing a work plan to support its activities in future;
- b) discussions were underway in London regarding developing a public health approach to crime reduction. This work would take place with the GLA and including mapping and identifying preventative actions; and
- c) work was taking place with NHS England in London to provide leadership in addressing health inequalities.

18/066 The Director of Health Protection and Medical Director advised that:

- a) PHE teams had continued to contribute to the public health response to the Novichok incident in Salisbury. This had been a cross-PHE response involving both national and local teams. The response had benefited from senior colleagues spending time in the working closely with local government. In particular working with the Director of Public Health to ensure that support and advice was provided to vulnerable groups;

- b) data would be published setting out 2017/18 flu vaccination effectiveness. This would generate a number of actions for PHE to prepare for the forthcoming flu season, including increasing the uptake of NHS staff vaccinations.

18/067 The Director of Health Improvement advised that:

- a) the data on NHS Health Checks over the previous five years had been published;
- b) the new internal arrangements for the Health Improvement Directorate had been implemented; and
- c) Professor David Forman had recently been appointed as Chair of the Independent Board for Data Release.

Chief Executive's Update

18/068 The Chief Executive advised that:

- a) PHE had provided briefing to the new Secretary of State, including PHE's contribution to the development of the NHS Long Term Plan. The Secretary of State had announced three priorities: Workforce, technology, including digital and behaviour change; and prevention;
- b) the second chapter of the Childhood Obesity Plan had recently been published and represented further progress. PHE were supporting delivery of a number of the actions;
- c) PHE's Annual Report had been laid before Parliament. PHE had once again received a clean audit opinion from its external auditors, the National Audit Office; and
- d) PHE was contributing fully and openly to the independent review into Breast Screening that had been commissioned by the previous Secretary of State.

Update from Four Nations Observers

18/069 The Executive Director, Health and Wellbeing, Public Health Wales, advised that:

- a) Public Health Wales had recently published its integrated medium term plan. It had also developed its Strategic Plan to 2030;
- b) *A Healthier Wales – A Plan for Health and Social Care in Wales* had been published in response to a Parliamentary Review;
- c) Public Health Wales continued to work on health weight initiatives across Wales; and
- d) Public Health Wales had recently completed a peer to peer review by the International Association of National Public Health Institutes which would shortly be received and published.

18/070 The Chair, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland advised that the Public Health Agency's remit had recently changed and would include responsibility for social care and children's services.

Global Public Health Update

18/071 Prof. Griffiths, Chair of the Global Health Committee advised that:

- a) PHE continued to develop its relationships internationally, including recent visits to Poland, Portugal and China;
- b) work was underway to refresh PHE's global public health strategy; and
- a) PHE continued to prepare for hosting the International Association of National Public Health Institutes annual meeting in London in November.

PHE Harlow update

18/072 Martin Hindle, independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee and PHE Harlow Programme Board advised that work progressed well with the PHE Harlow programme and that:

- a) the Full Business Case was in development;
- b) enabling works would commence on the site; and
- c) the key focus of the programme remained on PHE's people, with a number of policies and procedures in development. This included a video which had been produced to clearly articulate the vision for Harlow for staff.

Finance Report

18/073 The Finance report (enclosure PHE/18/14) was **NOTED**.

Information items

18/074 The Board noted the following information updates:

- a) Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 20 February 2018 (enclosure PHE/18/15)
- b) Board forward calendar (enclosure PHE/18/16)

Any other business

18/075 There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.00pm.

Rachel Scott

Board Secretary

July 2018