



Minutes

Title of meeting Public Health England Advisory Board
Date Wednesday 27 February 2019

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| Present | Dame Julia Goodfellow Michael Brodie Paul Cosford Yvonne Doyle George Griffin Sian Griffiths Poppy Jaman Sir Derek Myers Richard Parish Duncan Selbie | Chair, PHE Advisory Board Finance and Commercial Director Director of Health Protection and Medical Director Director, London Non-executive Non-executive Non-executive Non-executive Non-executive Non-executive Chief Executive |
| In attendance | Lee Bailey Andrew Dougal Kate Folkard James Gore Martin Hindle Adrian Masters John Newton Clare Perkins Mary Ramsay Simon Reeve Rachel Scott Alex Sienkiewicz Adam Winter | Director of Communications Chair, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland Head of National Chlamydia Screening Programme Chief Executive, Faculty of Public Health Independent member, PHE Audit and Risk Committee Director of Strategy, PHE Director for Health Improvement, PHE Deputy Director, Programmes and Priorities Deputy Director, Head of Vaccines and Immunisation Department of Health and Social Care Board Secretary, PHE Director of Corporate Affairs, PHE Sexual and Reproductive Health Lead, PHE |
| Apologies | Richard Gleave | Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer |

There were three members of the public present.

Announcements, apologies, declarations of interest

- 19/001 Apologies were noted. There were no declarations of interest raised on matters related to the agenda.
- 19/002 The Chair of the Advisory Board reported that she continued to undertake a series of induction visits.
- 19/003 The Advisory Board expressed their congratulations to Professor Yvonne Doyle on her appointment as Medical Director and Director for Health Protection, and Professor Paul Cosford on his appointment as Emeritus Medical Director.

Sexual Health, Reproductive Health and HIV

- 19/004 The Deputy Director, Priorities and Programmes provided an overview of PHE's sexual health, reproductive health and HIV programme (enclosure PHE/19/01).
- 19/005 The Director for Health Improvement had given evidence on this at the Health and Social Care Select Committee earlier in the week.
- 19/006 Good sexual and reproductive health was an important contributor to overall wellbeing. Sexual health had improved in recent years, for example, through improved access to services, the reduction in teenage pregnancies, and, in 2018, the UK reaching the United Nations' 90-90-90 target for 2020 (92% of people living with HIV diagnosed; 98% of those on treatment; and 97% of those have an undetectable viral load, which means they can't pass on HIV).
- 19/007 There were, however, areas for further improvement; patterns of outcomes demonstrated that there was variation across different parts of the population, and there were health inequality issues that needed to be addressed.
- 19/008 PHE had established a corporate programme on sexual health, reproductive health and HIV with four priorities:
- a) reproductive health. PHE had recently led the development of a cross-government Reproductive Health Action Plan, which was due to be published in 19/20;
 - b) sexual health commissioning. PHE and its partners had developed a commissioning action plan in response to the sexual health commissioning survey of 2016. This highlighted areas of challenge within the commissioning framework. The outcome of the process evaluation was expected in spring 2019 and would be published by PHE;
 - c) elimination of new HIV transmissions in England by 2030, as recently announced by the Secretary of State. PHE was working with DHSC to develop the corresponding action plan; and
 - d) strengthen the system-level response to syphilis and to monitor and response to the threat of drug resistant gonorrhoea.
- 19/009 The Advisory Board noted the work of the corporate programme and thanked the teams for their efforts.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

- 19/010 The minutes of the meetings held on 23 October and 21 November (enclosures PHE/19/02 and PHE/19/03) were agreed as accurate records. There were no matters arising.

Key Updates

- 19/011 An update was provided on the publication of the NHS Long Term Plan and the following points raised:
- a) the focus on prevention throughout the plan was welcomed;
 - b) there were several specific commitments and PHE would ensure that an appropriate implementation plan was put in place;
 - c) PHE was in close discussion with NHS England and NHS Improvement on their future operating model, including their new regional structure, which

reintroduced the role of Regional Director of Public Health as part of their top teams;

- d) implementation would provide a number of opportunities at local level, and that PHE was well placed to support Directors of Public Health through these changes.

19/012 An update was provided on EU Exit and the following points raised:

- a) PHE had well-established internal arrangements which covered both policy and routine matters as well as incident management. Close liaison continued with DHSC colleagues;
- b) through Regions and Centres, PHE was working with Local Resilience Fora and Directors of Public Health to provide support and advice as necessary;
- c) work had taken place to assure key supply chains, particularly in relation to vaccines;
- d) PHE had built excellent relationships with European partners over the years, particularly in relation to health security. These would continue regardless; and
- e) work taking place across the four nations. Public Health Wales had recently published a recent Impact Assessment report, which would be shared with members of the Advisory Board.

19/013 An update was provided on the recently published cardiovascular disease prevention ambitions and the following points raised:

- a) CVD remained the biggest killer for men in the UK. The ambitions had been developed in collaboration with a number of organisations and demonstrated excellent partnership working;
- b) they were linked to the publication of the NHS Long Term Plan and the Prime Minister's vision for the increase of five years of healthy life;
- c) links were in place with Academic Health Science Networks to support their contribution to their delivery.

19/014 An update was provided on the response to the breast screening incident and the following points raised:

- a) the NAO report into cancer screening programmes. PHE welcomed the report and its recommendations and would be working with DHSC and NHS England colleagues on preparing the Government response. The Chief Executive would be giving evidence on this to the Public Accounts Committee alongside the DHSC Permanent Secretary and the Chief Executive of NHS England;
- b) arrangements for finalising the clinical review of affected women were in place to ensure that they were contacted and updated appropriately; and
- c) the NHS Long Term Plan had a number of ambitions related to screening and PHE would provide appropriate support to their implementation.

19/015 An update was provided on PHE Harlow and the following points raised:

- a) enabling works had commenced,
- b) the Programme Board continued to keep the key milestones and costs under close review with DHSC colleagues; and
- c) getting people motivated and ready was the core part of the programme, with the development of relevant policies and support underway.

Chief Executive's Update

19/016 The Chief Executive advised that:

- a) PHE had recently published its latest report on e-cigarettes focused on the latest evidence on prevalence and use by young people and adults in England.

The evidence showed that e-cigarette use remained largely confined to those who already smoke or ex-smokers, who have quit using an e-cigarette, while quitting smoking remains the key motivation among adult vapers.

There was no evidence of regular use among young people, which remained low (1.7%) and mainly confined to those who already smoked. Only 0.2% of those who have never smoked were regular e-cigarette users.

The evidence suggested that so far vaping helps people stop smoking rather than leading them to start in the first place. The proportion of e-cigarettes users who are ex-smokers has increased over recent years and adult smoking rates continue to decline:

- b) The Secretary of State for International Development had recently visited Pakistan, including a visit to PHE's mission there. Senior Pakistan officials had recently also visited PHE; and
- c) The National Institute for Health Research had launched a two-stage competition to designate the next round of Health Protection Research Units. HPRUs were important partnerships between academic institutions and PHE, acting as centres of excellence in multi-disciplinary health protection research in England.

Update from Four Nations Observers

19/017 The Chair, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland, advised that:

- a) Northern Ireland had recently launched campaigns related to stroke and AMR prior to Christmas. PHE's evaluation of its own campaigns would be shared with them; and
- b) a review was underway in Northern Ireland on ALB arrangements and an update would be provided at a future meeting.

Global Public Health Update

19/018 Professor Griffiths, Chair of the Global Health Committee advised that:

- a) the development of the global health strategy continued with workshops planned in early May to finalise deliverables;

- b) PHE hosted a delegation of Chinese government officials in January focused on potential areas of collaboration, including global health security. PHE had also participated in the DFID-led UK/China health dialogue;
- c) PHE had signed an MoU with the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) Germany, focusing on emergency preparedness, research and digital strategies; and.
- d) the UK's sugar reduction and reformulation programme had been accepted into the European Commission's best practice portal.

Finance Report

19/019 The Finance report (enclosure PHE/19/04) was **NOTED**.

Information items

19/020 The Board noted the following information updates:

- a) Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held in November 2018 (enclosure PHE/19/05).
- b) Advisory Board forward calendar (enclosure PHE/19/06)

Questions from members of the public

19/021 There were two questions from members of the public:

- a) the importance of a focus on asset-based community development and how this could be used for improving health outcomes; and
- b) further to the update on the e-cigarette evidence review, whether PHE intended to include heated tobacco products and this was confirmed.

Any other business

19/022 There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.25pm.

Rachel Scott
Board Secretary
February 2019