



Minutes

Title of meeting Public Health England Advisory Board

Date Wednesday 26 February 2020

Present

Dame Julia Goodfellow	Chair
Professor Paul Cosford	Emeritus Medical Director
Professor Yvonne Doyle	Medical Director and Director for Health Protection
Richard Gleave	Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer
Professor Sian Griffiths	Associate non-executive
Professor George Griffin	Non-executive
Poppy Jaman	Non-executive
Sir Derek Myers	Deputy Chair
Duncan Selbie	Chief Executive
Donald Shepherd	Finance and Commercial Director
Dr Rashmi Shukla	Director, Midlands and East
Dame Sue Bailey	Non-Executive, Department of Health and Social Care (observer)
Martin Hindle	Independent member, PHE Audit and Risk Committee

In attendance

Andrea Clapton	Deputy Board Secretary
Lee Bailey	Director of Communications
Dr Jeanelle De Gruchy	President, Association of Directors of Public Health
George Leahy	Deputy Director, Health Protection
Adrian Masters	Director of Strategy
Gabrielle Owtram	Strategic Lead – Dietary Improvement, Health Improvement
Simon Reeve	Department of Health and Social Care
Rachel Scott	Board Secretary
Alex Sienkiewicz	Director of Corporate Affairs
Lina Toleikyte	Public Health Manager, Health Improvement

There were three members of the public present.

Announcements, apologies, declarations of interest

20/001 Apologies were noted. There were no declarations of interest raised on matters related to the agenda.

20/002 The Chair reported that:

- a) she had recently visited the teams in the Midlands and East of England Region and continued to meet with Directors from across Health Improvement.
- b) she would be taking part in the interviews for the Non-Executive posts in early March.

20/003 Ahead of the main discussion, the Advisory Board noted its sincere thanks to all members of PHE staff who were supporting the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, including those who continued to provide business as usual services.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

20/004 The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2020 (enclosure PHE/20/01) were agreed as an accurate record.

COVID-19 Update

20/005 The Medical Director and Director for Health Protection provided an update on the ongoing response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

20/006 It was reported that the Chief Medical Officer had determined four stages for the response: contain; delay; mitigate; with each phase underpinned by scientific advice. PHE was robustly supporting the first stage of the response, the contain phase, in line with the arrangements as set out in PHE's National Incident and Emergency Response Plan.

20/007 A discussion of the Advisory Board raised the following points:

- a) the Advisory Board thanked all members of PHE staff who were contributing to the response for their expertise and dedication;
- b) whether the impact on children, and in particular schools was being considered as part of the response;
- c) it was confirmed that there was a dedicated guidance cell, focused on producing specific guidance for individual settings including healthcare settings and guidance for non-healthcare sectors. It was confirmed that where there was guidance relevant to other sectors, such as transport, this would be co-badged with the relevant government department or agency;
- d) the response had engaged teams from across PHE, including local level responses across the Regions and Centres and with colleagues from across local government;
- e) PHE communication teams were supporting the development of clear messages for the public.

20/008 The Chair invited questions and comments from members of the public and the following was raised:

- a) appreciation was shown to those who have been directly involved in the response, and specifically for the personal and compassionate approach;
- b) the proposals around social distancing was discussed, specifically that any such measures would be introduced guided by the science, with the aim of having the most impact in slowing down the spread; and
- c) a question was raised on the development of the vaccine. It was confirmed that this was under careful consideration by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies.

Public Sector Equality Duty

20/009 An overview was provided following the publication of the *Public Sector Equality Duty report*, which set out how PHE had met the legal requirement during 2019. This was a requirement from the Equality Act which states that public sector bodies should consider the needs of all people and publish how it had achieved this.

20/010 PHE adopted a proactive approach, and the report covered both how PHE met the duty internally and in how it supported the wider system.

20/011 The Advisory Board noted the presentation and received the publication of the report.

E-Cigarettes

20/012 It was noted that *Vaping in England: evidence update March 2020* would be published in the coming week.

EU Transition

20/013 PHE continued to support the ongoing work, specifically those elements related to health security.

PHE Harlow

20/014 It was reported that PHE had submitted the full programme business case to the Department of Health and further reports would be provided in due course.

Chief Executive's Update

20/015 The Chief Executive advised that:

- a) the publication of *Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On* was welcomed and he would be meeting with Sir Michael in the coming weeks. Further updates would be provided at future Advisory Board meetings;
- b) the Secretary of State had recently visited Porton Down, and a future visit to PHE Colindale would be arranged; and
- c) work continued to plan for the next financial year, including finalising the annual budget setting process, business planning and the annual remit letter.

Finance Report

20/016 The Advisory Board noted the routine finance report (enclosure PHE/20/03).

Information items

20/017 The Advisory Board noted the following information updates:

- a) Advisory Board forward calendar (enclosure PHE/20/04)

Any other business

20/018 There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.55am.

Rachel Scott
Board Secretary
February 2020