

Nottingham City Council's Public Health Function

Alison Challenger, Director of Public Health



Health & Social Care Act (2012)

- Local authorities given statutory responsibility for improving the health of the local population & reducing health inequalities
- Public health function transferred into the Council from the NHS
- Discretion to respond to local needs but a number of statutory responsibilities and functions



Mandated services & functions

- Delivering the National Child Measurement Programme
- Universal health visitor reviews
- Open access sexual health services
- NHS Health checks
- Drug & alcohol treatment services
- Health protection
- Provision of public health advice for NHS commissioners



Public Health Grant (ring-fenced)

- Public Health Grant has reduced each year since the function transferred
- In 15/16 an in year cut of 6.2% was announced (£2.052m)
- Since then an annual reduction of 2.6% (approx. £900k per year) has applied
- In 18/19 Nottingham's grant is £33,830m
- In 19/20 this will reduce to £32,937m



Public Health Grant spend at NCC



■ PH commissioned Services ■ Wider determinants Staffing and support

- Most spend is on public health commissioned services; particularly sexual health, children, drugs & alcohol
- Almost a third is spent on services which address the wider determinants of health



Health inequalities in Nottingham

Reducing health inequalities remains a priority;

- Women in Nottingham have 10 year less healthy life expectancy than England average
- 12 year variation in healthy life expectancy across Nottingham City



Health & Wellbeing Priorities for Nottingham City

- Obesity – physical inactivity & diet
- Smoking - including in pregnancy
- Alcohol related harm
- Mental health, dementia and loneliness
- Sexual health & teenage pregnancy
- Support in the early years, including breastfeeding
- Dental health



Update on commissioned services

- Commissioning services targeted to 'at risk' groups - maximises health outcomes & reduces health inequalities within the available budget
- Signposting to universally available information & support

Since April 2018 public health have commissioned;

- Partnership approach to smoking cessation service to be delivered within primary care from 1st March
- Two targeted weight management programmes

Infection & prevention control service for residential homes



Some headline achievements

- Health check invites – 64% increase in Q1-Q3 18/19 (compared to Q1-Q3 17/18)
- Secured external funding (in conjunction with partners) to reduce physical inactivity
- Launched Nottingham's Time to Change Hub, with more than 70 local champions recruited
- Agreed arrangements with the CCG to sustain the Knowledge & Resource function



Health in all policies, programmes & practices

- Maximising contribution to public health outcomes across the Council's wider services & function
- Incorporates health considerations into decision making across sectors and policy areas
- Utilises the unique position of local authorities to address the social determinants of health
- Initial focus on training the wider Council workforce to talk to citizens about healthy lifestyle behaviours



National policy context

Positive recognition of the importance of prevention;

- “Prevention is better than cure” – vision published in Nov 2018
- NHS Long Term Plan – published Jan 2019
- Prevention Green Paper - expected Spring 2019

But... further reductions to the public health grant still agreed!

