

Title of Report:	Update on the Berkshire Public Health Advisory Board
Report to be considered by:	The Health and Wellbeing Board
Date of Meeting:	25 th July 2013

Purpose of Report: To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the work of the Berkshire Public health Advisory Board

Recommended Action: To note the report

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Executive Report

Introduction and Background

Public Health is currently being provided by each of the six unitary authorities in Berkshire with Bracknell Forest Council acting as the lead authority in supporting a Core Public Health Team whose responsibilities embrace a number of County wide activities. A Joint Agreement was signed earlier this year to formalise these arrangements and it was agreed late last year that the Berkshire Transition Board, which was overseeing the move of Public Health from the NHS to local government, would be replaced by a new Berkshire Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) from April 1st this year.

The purpose of this report is set out the Terms of Reference for the Board and to update the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board on work to date

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the PHAB were agreed at the meeting of the Berkshire Public Health Transition Steering Group on 12th March 2013. They are set out in Appendix A and highlight a number of key points;

- The Board has no legal status and is not an executive or decision making body. Decisions are vested in each Unitary Authority;
- The Board has a key role in providing the strategic direction and oversight for the Core Public Health Team based at Bracknell Forest Council;
- The Board is seen as having a key role in promoting integration across Berkshire, where appropriate, and in managing contracts that span a number of authorities.

Progress to Date

The Board meets monthly and has had four meetings to date. The first meeting focused very much on continuing transition issues. The second meeting put in place a proposed contract performance management framework for the Board and discussed the new approach to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which has also been the subject of discussion and agreement at an earlier meeting of this Board.

At the June meeting the process of re commissioning existing Public Health contracts was discussed. It had previously been agreed that Public Health contracts would be extended for a year until March 31st 2014 on the proviso that they would all be re commissioned at the earliest possible date. Following discussion at a local level it was agreed that the sexual health (GUM) and school nursing contracts should be selected as the highest priority contracts for re commissioning and that new contracts should be put in place by April 1st 2014. At that meeting a year end (2012/13) contract performance report was also received along with a draft of the Public Health Plan for the Core Team.

Further discussions took place at the July meeting regarding the re commissioning of the two contracts mentioned above. Concerns were raised regarding the absence of performance and management data at a unitary authority level. A number of actions were agreed with a view to returning to the matter again at the September meeting. The issue of re procuring these and other County wide contracts was also discussed. The need to coordinate this activity more effectively through the Core Team was identified which in turn

would require potential changes to the current governance arrangements given each unitary authority currently exercises its own decision making powers.

In addition to all of the above the Board continues to receive a monthly health protection update covering key issues across Berkshire.

Appendices

A – Terms of Reference - Berkshire Public Health Advisory Board.