

Title: Update Report –Public Health

Wards Affected: All

To: Health and Wellbeing Board **On:** 19 September 2013

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1. Achievements since last meeting

1.1 Following the discussion on alcohol at the last Board meeting, Torbay hosted a forum for Chairs and Vice Chairs for Boards across Somerset, Devon and Cornwall.

The agenda included sharing of best practice, the opportunities for shared campaigns and a discussion about the creation of an alcohol alliance.

The examples of best practice shared by other areas included a number of schemes we are also developing in Torbay:

- Public Health professionals within acute hospital site
- Peer support for recovery
- Screening and brief intervention by other agencies

We showcased the targeted alcohol worker we have developed between the CCG and Public Health. This post has been actively working with high users of GP and hospital health services. Early results are very promising.

We were interested in some of the web-based content other areas were using, in particular Somerset, and will be looking at this over the coming months.

Torbay also provided copies of the poster campaign on parental responsibility and drinking which was developed in response to a local serious case review. The posters point out the dangers to children in terms of immediate safety and learned behaviour.

The members of the forum agreed to set up an Alcohol Alliance to oversee shared work and lobby collectively. It was felt by the group that a high profile campaigner on alcohol issues would give the Alliance greater credibility. We will be approaching a local MP with an invitation to chair this Alliance.

1.2 Following the report to the last Health and Wellbeing Board, the most recent figures for Teenage Conception have been updated and show a decrease for Torbay, in line with our more average position. The report to the previous Board meeting had shown a sharp increase and a project to review services for teenagers was proposed. Despite the better performance in the most recent quarter, Torbay still has high rates compared to other Councils nationally and this project has now commenced. Details are included in this agenda under the item for Sexual Health.

1.3 The Board has previously received presentations that have highlighted the Government programme for additional capacity in Health Visiting. The original capacity of 20 posts has increased to 38 from this September and will be 54 by 2015.

1.4 It has been announced that the Public Health grant to Councils will remain ring-fence for a third year (2015-16). The value for the third year has not been announced.

1.5 The performance figures for Health Checks have been published for quarter 1. Torbay is doing well on the number of checks it is able to offer with 5.3% of the eligible population compared to only 4.2% nationally and 1.9% for Devon, Cornwall and Somerset overall. Take up of offers is lower in Torbay however, at 1.8% compared to 2.0% nationally and reasons for this are being explored.

Challenges for the next three months

2.1 The Public Health commissioning team has now moved from St. Edmunds into the Town Hall. This team, financed from the ring fenced grant, commissions front line services, provides public health leadership to the Council and statutory support to the CCG. Like many Public Health teams across the country, the redesign of the NHS has led to a number of changes. Around 50% of the original team have left in the last 18 months and there are currently a number of vacant posts, some of which are being filled with secondments.

The Director of Public Health (DPH) in Torbay will be leaving in November. Across the five councils in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset (County) there will only be two DsPH in permanent posts.

The post of DPH is a statutory appointment and an update on appointing to/covering this and the other vacancies will be reported at the Board meeting.

3. Action required by partners

3.1 As we move into the winter season the annual influenza campaign starts. Vaccination is offered to the following at risk groups:

- Anyone aged 65 and over
- Those with specific long term conditions (all ages from 6 months)
- Those living in a long-term care home
- Health and social care workers who are in direct contact with patients and carers
- Carers in receipt of Carers Allowance or who are a main carer
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 2 and 3 (NEW FOR 2013)

In addition, vaccination against shingles is being offered to those who are aged 70 and 79. It is the intention to roll vaccination out to everyone aged 70-79 over coming years as national stocks allow.

Partners have been instrumental in promoting influenza uptake in previous years. The Care trust continues to have a popular District Nurse team (Flu'sEase) who vaccinate care homes and housebound elderly. The Maternity Unit at the hospital have been instrumental in improving our uptake rate for pregnant women from 31% to 48% (one of the best in South West). Healthwatch led a publicity campaign last year and will be including shingles in their programme for this winter.

We would ask all partners to continue this support. Councillors are invited to attend a training session in the Town Hall on 27th November.