

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT Public Health England

Overview

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the Secretary of State will have new functions in relation to public health. Many of those functions will be exercised by Public Health England (PHE), which is to be established on 1 April 2013 as an Executive Agency of the Department of Health.

PHE's overall mission will be to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of the population, and to reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing outcomes. It will do this in concert with the health and social care system, and with key delivery partners including Directors of Public Health, local government, the NHS and Police and Crime Commissioners, providing expert advice and services and showing national leadership for the public health system.

Location

Further work to finalise the organisation design of PHE - including the number and location of staff and offices - will be conducted by the end of May 2012. This work will be based on the overall functions and organisation structure as set out in the PHE operating model, which includes the following features:

- National office - PHE's senior management team will be based in a national office located in London. The national office will act as the service centre for the organisation, and provide national leadership, strategic direction and support the overall integration and coordination of the public health system.
- National centres of expertise and excellence for public health - PHE will build on and develop current arrangements for national centres which concentrate professional, scientific and analytical expertise to deliver a range of services and functions that support front-line public health activities.
- Hubs - some PHE national office functions will be distributed across geographic hubs, which will be part of the national office and act within a national framework. There will be four hubs that are coterminous with the four sectors of the NHS Commissioning Board and the Department for Communities and Local Government resilience structure: London, the South of England, Midlands and East of England, and North of England.
- Units - PHE will deploy expert and specialist advice capacity at a level that allows it to understand and respond to local needs and support local leaders to tackle the health challenges they face. Units will be developed from the twenty-five current health protection units of the Health Protection Agency.

Numbers of Staff

Approximately 5,000 roles have been identified within the existing organisations and functions that are expected to transfer across into PHE in April 2013. Further work

on finalising transition details will be conducted and published in the first half of 2012.

Organisation Design

It is expected that a PHE Chief Executive designate will be appointed in April 2012 to manage the transition process through 2012/13.

Once the final phases of PHEs design are completed in the summer of 2012, the HR transition processes will begin. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, it is expected that a pre-transfer appointment process will run from July to October 2012. Permanent appointments will only be confirmed after establishment in 2013.

Useful documents

A series of policy updates were published on 20 December 2011 to help partner organisations and staff involved to understand and implement these reforms.

<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/public-health-system/>

These documents cover:

- The New Public Health System
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_131897.pdf
- Public Health in Local Government
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_131904.pdf
- PHE's Operating Model
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_131892.pdf

In January 2012, 'Building a Public Health England People Transition Policy' will be published, which will outline the high level process for filling posts, the process for senior appointment and the progress on partnership working. This will be followed in June 2012 by the full 'Public Health England People Transition Policy', which will include terms and conditions.