



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

# PHE Board Paper

<b>Title of meeting</b>	PHE Board
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 20 July 2016
<b>Sponsor</b>	Kevin Fenton
<b>Presenters</b>	Ann Marie Connolly, Deputy Director, Equity and Mental Health Paul Farmer CEO MIND Karen Turner Director of Mental Health Policy NHS England
<b>Title of paper</b>	<b>The Mental Health Taskforce and <i>Five Year Forward View for Mental Health</i>, the Public's Mental Health and the Role of PHE</b>

## 1. Purpose of the paper

The purpose of the paper is to update the Board on progress in mental health since November 2014 (the previous PHE Public Board meeting on mental health), provide an update on the Mental Health Taskforce (*The 'Five Year Forward View for Mental Health'*) and present for discussion a number of key areas for action to support and advance improvements in the public's mental health and PHE's role.

## 2. Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

**Note** the work of the Mental Health Taskforce and the implementation of the *Five Year Forward View for Mental Health*, and PHE's role.

**Note** the progress being made by PHE on Mental Health,

**Comment** on the proposed future direction for advancing the public's mental health.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 Improving population mental health, preventing mental health problems, mental illness and suicide and improving the lives of people living with and recovering from mental health problems is a core role for public health agencies and their partners, nationally and locally. The global, national and local challenges for mental health are significant requiring cross system action and collaboration. Whatever our background or circumstance, mental health permeates every aspect of our personal, professional, family and community lives. Intimately interlinked with physical health and wellbeing and influenced by social factors and the key determinants of our health and wellbeing. Improving the public's mental health requires service improvements combined with wider action from outside health care covering where we live, learn, work and play. PHE and the public health system has a vital role to play in meeting the public mental health challenge and influencing the engagement of important partners in key areas such as education, employment, housing, criminal justice, and communities.

**Annex 1** provides further contextual background, including an introduction to the Mental Health Taskforce and the Publication of The Five Year Forward View for Mental Health.'

3.2 PHE has made significant strides in supporting progress in mental health. In PHE's Evidence Into Action (PHE 2015), mental health is identified as one of 3 underpinning principles and themes for our work (alongside inequalities and community centred approaches). Examples of how we are embedding and integrating mental health in what we do, for each function we perform and area we work in can be found in **Annex 2**.

3.3 PHE also has dedicated national and local Mental Health programmes. There is a National Public Mental Health Team within the Health and Wellbeing Directorate's Health Equity and Mental Health Division, taking forward a range of work nationally with key partners and supporting local PHE Centres. Each PHE Centre also has a designated mental health and suicide prevention leads. Based in CKO, PHE has also established the National Mental Health Dementia and Neurology Intelligence Network, which provides insights through data, intelligence and evidence for the whole system.

**Annex 3** provides further background on PHE's work in public mental health. Including our role in the implementation of the Mental Health Taskforce's recommendations, set out in the *Five Year Forward View for Mental Health* (February 2016).

PHE's current priorities in mental health are;

- a) Supporting Government by providing advice on public mental health, focusing on promotion and prevention.
- b) Supporting the delivery of the NHS Five Year Forward View for Mental Health in 3 key areas: Leading a new national Prevention Concordat programme; leading the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy; Supporting the NHS and partners to help improve the lives and health of those living with and recovering from mental illness.
- c) Supporting PHE Local Centres and local systems in improving the public's mental health.

Underpinning this activity is our continuing work to:

- a) increase access to high quality intelligence, data and evidence;
- b) integrate mental health into life-course approaches from pre-conception to old age (within PHE and externally);
- c) adopt community centred approaches and asset based working;
- d) develop the public health and wider workforce capacity, capability and leadership;
- e) support the public health system through improved communications and dissemination of key information and guidance.

#### **4. Proposed Future Direction**

4.1 PHE has the opportunity to further develop its public mental health activity and raise the profile of a number of key issues. At the Board Meeting on 20 July, a presentation will be made that sets a proposed future direction. The three main priority areas for current and future work are:

- a) Leading suicide prevention efforts and providing support to the national and local systems to help reduce the unacceptable and avoidable rates of suicide across the country.
- b) Championing and supporting a focus on promotion and prevention as a key element of 'place based approaches' to health and wellbeing. Including improving the lives of people living with and recovering from mental illness and through adopting community centred and asset based approaches.
- c) Leveraging our assets across PHE to achieve improvements in mental health. For example through our social marketing activities; data, intelligence and evidence work; workforce development; health protection and emergency response; local system and place based support through our Centres.

4.2 PHE is also connected globally in mental health. This includes links to WHO, the EU, the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership, OECD and public health agencies in other countries. Notably the Public Health Agency of Canada. Discussions have begun to explore what PHE's offer globally might be in mental health.

4.3 The Board are invited to **note** and **comment** on:

- a) PHE's work and role in support of the Mental Health Taskforce *and Five Year Forward View for Mental Health* with our NHS England and other ALB partners.
- b) The progress being made by PHE on Mental Health across the organisation, and how we can further leverage our PHE assets.
- c) The proposed future direction for advancing the public's mental health, and our three priority areas.
- d) Future exploration of the opportunities to include mental health as part of PHE's Global Health offer.

**Gregor Henderson**

*National Lead, Mental Health and Wellbeing*

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