

## **Response to Southwark Health and Social Care Scrutiny**

### **Public Health Questions**

Southwark Council Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011, requested information on the following three questions

1. The effectiveness and results of the Bowel cancer screening programme
2. Linking up with the Diabetes UK to promote early testing and prevention.
3. The results of the shadow budgeting process for Public Health budgets, as this function moves from Southwark NHS to Southwark Council.

#### **1. Effectiveness and results of bowel cancer screening programme**

The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme started being rolled out in July 2006 nationally and in Southwark from March 2008 and so is still a new programme. It is aimed at those aged 60-69.

The programme hub for London, at St Mark's Hospital, operates a call and recall system to send out faecal occult blood (FOB) test kits to peoples homes. The individuals use the kit to take a sample and return the test to the programme hub where they analyse the samples and then despatch results.

The target for uptake of the bowel cancer screening programme is 60%. In quarter 1 of 2011/12, Southwark achieved an uptake of 38.86%. While this is considerably below target, it is comparable to Lambeth and Lewisham (39.27% and 42.83% respectively), and not far below the London uptake rate of 45.25%. Southwark's uptake rate improved from the previous quarter when it was 36.45%.

Southwark's positivity (percentage of positive screens/ abnormal results in FOB test kits) in Quarter 1 of 2010/11 was 2.55%, below the figure for London at 3.04%, and between Lambeth and Lewisham positivity values - 3.34% and 2.36% respectively. The reason for the comparatively lower screen test positivity is not understood but may be due to the type of population or may be due to the lower numbers taking part.

For those who have a positive screen result they are referred to a screening centre at University Hospital Lewisham. This provides an endoscopy service and specialist screening nurse clinics for people receiving an abnormal result. This centre then proceeds with diagnostic tests to see if people truly have cancer. Early results from those Southwark residents referred for definitive diagnosis suggest that only a very small percentage of those referred are found to have cancer. Nationally of those referred because they have a positive screen result only 9% are found to actually have cancer.

#### **2. Linking up with the Diabetes UK to promote early testing and prevention**

Health Checks is a recent programme being rolled out across the country offering a health check to all people aged 40-75 who are not already being seen by a GP practice. The Health Check looks for high blood pressure, coronary heart disease and also for diabetes amongst those considered to be at risk of that disease. People are then referred to appropriate services, either support for improving their lifestyle or to clinical care depending on the results of the assessment. Diabetes UK is a key

stakeholder in the programme of Health Checks for Southwark. Mr John Grumitt, the Vice Chair of the Board of Diabetes UK sits on the South East London Cluster Health Check Leads Group.

The South London Cardiac and Stroke Networks also have well established links and regularly liaise with Diabetes UK and Mr Grumitt also attends the network meetings.

In addition, NHS Southwark liaises directly with Diabetes UK as they utilize the health promotional materials developed by Diabetes UK for Health Checks to enhance uptake of early testing and prevention.

### **3. The results of the shadow budgeting process for Public Health budgets, as this function moves from NHS Southwark to Southwark Council.**

Over the last 12 months, financial returns were produced for the Department of Health on the Public Health budget covering the range of services as outlined in the White Paper *Healthy Lives, Healthy People* and the associated document *Consultation on the Funding and Commissioning Routes for Public Health*.

The actual shadow budget allocation is still to be confirmed and is expected by the end of this month (December 2011).

To date the Public Health budget setting exercise has identified a Southwark baseline of approximately £26M (10/11). Not all of this resource will be the responsibility of the local authority. It is anticipated that approximately £7M of public health services will be commissioned directly by the National Commissioning Board (NCB) and the local authority public health allocation will reflect this. The main services to be commissioned by the NCB include cancer screening, immunizations (neonatal and childhood, HPV and seasonal flu) and services 0 – 5 year old (health visiting).

The key areas commissioned through the local authority (approximately £19m) will include substance misuse and alcohol, services for 5 – 19 (school nursing), sexual health and NHS Health Checks. There will also be a requirement to provide public health expert advice to the local authority and to the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Additionally, for London boroughs, a top slice of 3% of the total local budget is expected. This will fund the Mayor's office to provide a pan London approach to tackling some public health concerns.

The above is subject to confirmation in the shadow budget allocation. It should be noted that the shadow allocation may not reflect current local spend. There is likely to be a 'target spend' determined by an allocation formula and a period of adjustment when actual allocations are moved towards the target.