

LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMISSIONING PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES AS SET OUT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDANCE

1. Public health services

1.1. Local authority commissioning public health responsibilities were set out in the Department of Health's *public health: factsheet* in December 2011. These were listed as:

- Comprehensive sexual health services (outside of the GP contract)
- Alcohol and drug misuse services
- Public health services for children and young people aged 5 – 19
- The National Child Measurement Programme
- NHS Health Check assessments
- Interventions to tackle obesity
- Locally-led nutrition initiatives
- Increasing levels of physical activity
- Tobacco control and smoking cessation services
- Behavioural and lifestyle campaigns to prevent cancer and long-term conditions
- Population level interventions to reduce and prevent birth defects
- Local initiatives on workplace health
- Local initiatives to reduce excess deaths as a result of seasonal mortality
- Local initiatives that reduce public health impacts of environmental risks
- Public health aspects of local initiatives to tackle social exclusion
- Public health aspects of promotion of community safety, violence prevention and response
- Accidental injury prevention
- Public mental health services
- Dental public health services
- The local authority role in dealing with health protection incidents, outbreaks and emergencies
- Supporting, reviewing and challenging delivery of key funded and NHS delivered services such as immunisation and screening programmes

1.2. Some of these services will be mandated. The commissioning of any of the other services will be discretionary, guided by the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) and the Public Health Outcomes framework. The local authority is not limited to this list and will be able to commission a wider variety of services under the health improvement duty from the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

1.3. The Department of Health has set out that accountability for public health commissioning of children's health from 5 – 19 will be with the NHS Commissioning Board. However this will later transfer to be a local authority by 2015.

1.4. Within sexual health services, termination of pregnancy services, HIV treatment, and sexual assault referral centres will be the responsibility of the NHS Commissioning Board.

1.5. Mandatory services and activities are to include:

- Sexual Health Services
- Ensuring health protection plans are in place through local resilience forums
- Population healthcare advice to the NHS
- Production of an annual public health report
- National Child Measurement Programme
- NHS Health Check Assessments

1.6. Health protection plans will require the co-operation of multiple bodies across the area, but it will be the statutory responsibility of the local authority to lead them and ensure that they are in place. These will include aspects of advice and challenge on screening and immunisation programmes, although the immunisation and screening programmes will be delivered by the NHS Commissioning Board.

More information at Department of Health Factsheet:

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