

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**18 FEBRUARY 2015****STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR
PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTION
COUNTY COUNCILLOR DON MACKENZIE****Public Health Grant**

We have received confirmation that the value of our Public Health Grant for 2015/16 will remain at £19.7m. Furthermore, the council will take over responsibilities for commissioning the 0-5 years Healthy Child Programme from NHS England in October this year, whilst the 5-19 years contract is already in place to commence on 1 April 2015. The 0-5 year element will attract an indicative, additional budget of £2.535m for health visits and related services.

The Public Health Grant is set nationally by means of a process that seeks to reflect need in the local area. Whilst our allocation falls short of what North Yorkshire should receive, we are ensuring that we will invest in public health services and initiatives, which were not possible before.

In summary, the Grant is being used to:

- Deliver core public health services and statutory public health functions
- Provide capacity to lead public health action within the council and with partners
- Develop new services which address the public health priorities in the county
- Support other parts of the council to bring about wider public health benefits

In the two years since taking on public health responsibilities, we have transformed several core public health services so that they deliver greater value for money and are tailored to local need. These include drug and alcohol services, the 5-19 years Healthy Child Programme and sexual health services.

We are focusing investment on programmes which reflect North Yorkshire's distinctive public health priorities. The Public Health Grant is funding the newly-appointed Stronger Communities Delivery Managers who are playing a key role in the development of our Stronger Communities programme, which is fundamental to the change in the way in which the council will deliver its services in the future.

Funding is being allocated across all directorates. For example, new childhood obesity services are being developed with CYPS and support is being given to the Trading Standards team to strengthen alcohol and tobacco control measures.

North Yorkshire Joint Alcohol Strategy

In January, I was pleased to participate in the launch of the county's Joint Alcohol Strategy. The boroughs and districts, clinical commissioning groups, North Yorkshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Probation Service have signed up to the Strategy. Over the next 5 years, we are all committed to "work together to reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families, communities and businesses in North Yorkshire while ensuring that people are able to enjoy alcohol responsibly."

The strategy is supported by our recently launched North Yorkshire Horizons service. This integrated programme provides adult substance misuse treatment and recovery across the county through five hubs and wider community-based outreach provision.

This substance misuse service, the first to be re-commissioned by our Public Health team, commenced operations on 1 October 2014 and is charged with giving cost-effective, high-quality and consistent service delivery with an emphasis upon recovery.

Sexual Health Services

The Council has now awarded contracts for this core service to York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Open access provision is essential in the treatment of sexually transmitted infections, and in preventing complications, wider outbreaks, as well as unwanted pregnancies. The new service will be easier to access and will have an increased focus on prevention and early intervention, including targeted services and outreach work for young people and most at risk groups. The contract contains cash efficiency savings and incentives for good performance and will commence on 1 July 2015 and last for at least three years.

Ebola

The Public Health team, in collaboration with Public Health England and this council's Emergency Planning Unit, have ensured that plans are in place to respond to suspected cases of Ebola or any other infection or environmental hazard that may pose a threat to public health. Much of this essential work is carried out quietly away from the spotlight and unrecognised until situations like the Ebola epidemic occur.

Future areas of focus for Public Health and Prevention

In the last two years progress has been made in developing programmes and initiatives to promote mental and physical health and prevent illness among our residents. We will build on this work while focussing on new areas that address particular public health challenges for the county.

We will continue to support the priority in the Children and Young People's Plan: to give every child a healthy start in life. We will develop initiatives to enable children and adults to maintain a healthy weight. We will ensure that our most vulnerable are protected against the extremes of temperature, and work to address fuel poverty. We will continue to promote health and wellbeing in the workplace.

We will continue with efforts to improve the health of particular communities to reduce variances in the health of our residents. We will work with our partners in the NHS to ensure that commissioning of health care services delivers the best public health outcomes for our residents.

Proposals are being developed for use of the Public Health Grant up to 2020. Subject to final agreement, the Grant will be used to fund a number of preventative services including: bereavement support, falls prevention and the appointment of Prevention Officers who will work with older people, to help them remain independent in their homes and active members of their communities for as long as possible. It will also anticipated that Grant funding will be invested in measures to promote road safety and combat doorstep crime.

DON MACKENZIE