

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Public Health  
**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Adults  
**SUBJECT:** Transfer of Public Health  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To enable the Board to note the preparation and legacy document for the transfer of all Public Health functions and services from NHS Merseyside to Halton Borough Council in April 2013.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board**

**1) Note the preparation for the transfer of all Public Health staff and services from NHS Merseyside to Halton Borough Council in April 2013; and**

**2) Note the legacy document that outlines completed preparation for handover of functions and services from Halton and St Helens PCT to Halton Borough Council in Appendix 1.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 As part of the changes introduced by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Primary Care Trusts will not exist beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and formal responsibility for the majority of public health functions moves to Local Authorities in April 2013, with some responsibilities moving to Public Health England and the National Commissioning Board.

3.2 Preparation for the transfer has been ongoing since March 2012. This has included a review across NHS Merseyside which is made up of the 4 Primary Care Trusts of Halton & St Helens, Knowsley, Liverpool and Sefton of all Public Health functions and services.

3.3 An additional challenge in this process has been “un-weaving” two Boroughs from what is the PCT footprint of Halton and St Helens. The legacy document in Appendix 1 refers to both Councils in terms of services to be transferred and the process Halton has completed to enable the transfer. This document will be submitted to the Department of Health.

3.4 Halton Borough Council has developed and led a Transition Group which has overseen the safe transfer of all necessary functions including staff transfer and measures letter, public health reports, information governance, emergency resilience, contracts, data connections, risk register, budget transfer, communications and marketing plan and final Public Health Annual Report. The Public Health Service will be located within the Policy and Resources Directorate for operational purposes. This will enable it to work across the Council with all other Directorates and facilitate integration with adults and children's services.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Department of Health have recommended all local authorities develop transition plans and legacy documents.

#### 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The announcement of the ring fenced public health grant allocations on 10<sup>th</sup> January was favourably received with national figures of £2.5billion for 2013/14 and £2.8billion for 2014/15 representing real term growth. The allocation for Halton is £8,510 million for 2013/14 and £8,749 million for 2014/15 which is an increase from the anticipated initial allocation of 2.8% each year.

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Halton's health and wellbeing priorities for children will be met in part through the services outlined in Appendix 1.

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Halton's health and wellbeing priorities enable local people to maintain good health and improve poor health so they can benefit from employment, learning and skills. These priorities will be met in part through the services outlined in Appendix 1.

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Each of the service areas included are expected to clearly demonstrate a positive impact on the health and well-being of people in Halton as well as addressing the priorities identified in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

##### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Halton's health and Wellbeing priorities enable local people to improve their health and this impacts on the safety of local people, particularly regarding alcohol.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**  
None

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The risk in the transfer of Public Health functions and services has been minimised through robust planning via the NHS Merseyside and Halton Borough Council Transition Groups.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Any equality and diversity issues are addressed in the transfer plans.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.

