



Association of Directors of Public Health

Victoria House
Capital Park
Fulbourn
CB1 5XB

Sir Nigel Crisp
The Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NL

21st September 2005

Dear Sir Nigel

Commissioning a patient led NHS

The proposed restructuring of the NHS will have a profound impact on the public health function and the delivery of 'Choosing Health'. The Association of Directors of Public Health executive team have considered the issues, particularly from a PCT perspective and enclosed a short paper for consideration (attached)

Our Association believes it important for the NHS and Local Authorities to understand and develop the role of a Director of Public Health. DsPH should be appointed at Executive Director level to statutory organisations with public health responsibilities for a defined population. As we move toward greater co-terminosity of local authority and NHS boundaries we should provide joint appointments between the NHS and local government.

Commissioning a patient led NHS risks the public health function at commissioning level being split from providers and local neighbourhoods. The tiered approach proposed in the paper will secure integration into local neighbourhood organisations and practice based commissioning. In order to secure an integrated public health function we believe PCTs DsPH need to lead a network of public health practitioners across the different tiers and settings. The DsPH needs to be assured - through commissioned or directly provided services – that the three domains of public health (health improvement, protection and service quality) are secure for their population.



Association of Directors of Public Health

The ADsPH who represent all DsPH across the country would welcome an opportunity to discuss these issues with colleagues at DH in order to make the changes proposed “fit for purpose” and not waste an opportunity for progressive development.

Yours sincerely

DR TONY JEWELL

President

- CC Lord Warner – Minister of State for NHS Delivery
Rosie Winterton – Minister of State for Health Services
Rt Hon Jane Kennedy – Minister of State for Quality and Patient Safety
Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt – Secretary of State for Health
Caroline Flint – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health
John Bacon - Group Director of Health and Social care services and delivery
Sir Liam Donaldson – Chief Medical Officer
Dr Fiona Adshead – Deputy Medical Officer
Carolyn Regan – Chief Executive NE London Strategic Health Authority
Mike Farrar – Chief Executive West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority
- Tim Crayford - Director of Public Health Croydon PCT
Nick Hicks - Director of Public Health Milton Keynes PCT
Catherine Woodward – Director of Health improvement Telford & Wrekin PCT
Alison Frater – Director of Public Health Bristol North, South & West PCTs
Janet Atherton - Director of Public Health South Sefton PCT
Andrew Clark - Director of Public Health Craven, Harrogate & Rural District PCT
Mike Robinson - Mike Robinson East Leeds PCT
Nigel Monaghan - Local Public Health Director Bro Taf H
Dorothy Moir - Director of Public Health Lanarkshire NHS Board
John Watson - Director of Public Health NHSSB
- Simon Tanner – Director of Public Health & Medical Director Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Dorset and Somerset SHAs
Dympna Edwards - Director of Public Health North Liverpool PCT