



PRESS RELEASE

18 November 2013

Association of Directors of Public Health – latest survey of Directors of Public Health (preliminary results, 18.11.13)

In a survey conducted by the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH), preliminary analysis has found that:

- ❑ Most DsPH have found the move to local authorities a positive experience – however this is not the case across the board, with more concern being expressed particularly in those LAs with acting and interim DPH roles [68% of DsPH in England described feeling very or fairly confident; with 14% not very or not at all confident that the move would result in better health outcomes]. The preliminary analysis of the survey shows that 78% of DsPH report to the LA CEO or ‘super director’.
- ❑ It is to be welcomed that 80% of Councils have a clear vision for Public Health; however 7% of Councils were reported to show no interest or to be actively resisting.
- ❑ Finance and workforce issues continue to be the most significant concern for Directors of Public Health:
 - ❑ Of particular concern is that many PH posts have been lost during the transition from NHS to LAs; exacerbated by problems with job evaluation in LAs – particularly with PH Consultant roles [26% of DsPH described experiencing such problems]
 - ❑ DsPH reported that 271 PH consultants were in post, 43 are in the process of being recruited, and 20 posts have been frozen (a 19% vacancy factor)
 - ❑ On PH funding, 78% of DsPH confirmed that investment was at least the same as the PH ring-fenced budget; however comments from DsPH reflect the pressure council resources are under

Dr Janet Atherton, President of the ADPH, said: “These preliminary survey results reflect the feedback that I have been getting from our members over the last few months. Directors of Public Health can see real opportunities developing from working in councils particularly to address the social determinants of health, but councils are facing



PRESS RELEASE

challenging financial times and it is proving difficult for many Directors to recruit the specialist staff they need in their teams to deliver high quality public health.”

ENDS

Notes to editors follows/

For further information and interview requests please contact Nicola Close, Chief Executive of the ADPH on 07801 515567 / nicola.close@adph.org.uk ; or Head of Policy Julia Ellis, on 07852 766908/ julia.ellis@adph.org.uk

Notes to editors:

- The survey was sent to all 131 DsPH currently in post (including Acting and Interim DsPH) in England. A total of 102 DsPH have responded to date (78%), representing coverage of 112 (74%) of LAs (out of a total of 152 top-tier LAs in England).
- The survey asked DsPH a range of questions relating to workforce and Public Health funding issues following the transfer of DsPH and their PH teams (in England) to Local Authorities on 1st April 2013.
- This latest survey updated a similar survey undertaken by ADPH in January 2013 – the results of which can be found at: [here](#)
- The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) is the representative body for Directors of Public Health (DsPH) in the UK. It seeks to improve and protect the health of the population through DPH development, sharing good practice, and policy and advocacy programmes. www.adph.org.uk