



*Association of Directors of Public Health (UK)*

## **Association of Directors of Public Health (UK)**

### **Position Statement: NHS Health Check Programme**

#### **About ADPH**

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](http://www.adph.org.uk)

ADPH has a strong track record of collaboration with other stakeholders in public health, including those working within the NHS, local authorities and other sectors.

#### **NHS Health Check Programme, England**

Directors of Public Health within their Local Authorities in England have an explicit statutory duty under the Public Health Regulations 2013 to commission Health Checks, and there is a further duty to deliver continuous improvement (across take-up, quality and impact). Local Authorities also have a statutory Value for Money Duty, to achieve economy, effectiveness, efficiency and equity in delivery of their services.

ADPH recognises that there are concerns within the public health community in relation to the evidence for the effectiveness of the Health Check Programme – however, whilst the evidence is still building, we believe the most effective approach is to seek to achieve the best value from the current Programme, including targeting at those populations most at risk. We would support measures that enable primary care to adopt a risk stratification approach. Added value from health checks can be obtained by developing pathways between NHS Health Checks and wider public health prevention programmes and secondary care services. It is important that ongoing care is provided in line with NICE guidance once risk factors are identified.

Public Health England is currently developing a research and evaluation strategy for the NHS Health Check programme – we welcome that this will provide the opportunity to further investigate the effectiveness of the Health Check Programme in England. WHO guidelines recommend that 10% of the resources for such programmes are spent on evaluation to ensure the best use of public money, and we would support the need for a robust research and evaluation strategy – which includes quality of delivery, evaluation of outcomes and impact on health inequalities.

ADPH continues to work with PHE, NHSE and the LGA to improve the current Programme and to support robust evaluation, research and evidence.

**Association of Directors of Public Health**  
**June 2014**