



The Association of Directors of Public Health Councils call for major extension of national HIV prevention trial

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) and Local Government Association (LGA) are calling for a major extension of access to PrEP to help end the epidemic of HIV in the UK.

Two years on since NHS England announced the PrEP Trial, 10,000 people have been recruited onto the trial. However, people are still finding it difficult to access PrEP and some people have become infected with HIV when this could have been prevented.

ADPH and LGA fully support PrEP as part of an effective HIV prevention strategy, with the potential to save lives. Our only concern is the unfunded cost to councils as a result of rolling PrEP out, whether as part of expanding the number of people on the PrEP Trial or in a future national HIV PrEP programme.

We are calling for the forthcoming NHS long-term plan to commit to fully fund expanded access to the HIV PrEP Trial ensuring that both unresolved implementation questions are addressed and that local authority sexual health services are adequately resourced to support this extension.

Professor Jim McManus, ADPH Vice President, said:

“PrEP is now even more affordable on the NHS. With the NHS saving substantial sums from the drug being cheaper as well as from fewer people needing treatment, we see no reason why NHS England should not extend the roll out of the trial to more people.

“While NHS England pays for the drug, local councils have to meet the costs of extra attendances and tests at sexual health services. These additional costs fall at a time when government is cutting public health budgets.

“The savings made by NHS England switching to generic Truvada would help cover the trial-associated service costs of extending recruitment to the PrEP trial and significantly reduce the burden on local authorities to support this important study.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Chairman of the Local Government Association’s Community Wellbeing Board, said:

“The outcome of the trial, which will be the largest single study of its type in the world, will help inform the potential rolling out of the provision of PrEP nationwide. It is crucial that at the end of this trial next year, a clear process for routinely commissioning PrEP on the NHS is agreed.

“The forthcoming NHS long-term plan should commit to extending the trial and government should support the extension through local authority funded sexual health services. Local authorities have invested hundreds of millions in providing sexual health services since taking over responsibility for public health five years ago, and we firmly believe that PrEP could significantly reduce levels of HIV in the community.

“As a matter of urgency, the government must end this short-sighted approach and reverse the planned cuts to public health grants we have seen in recent years.”

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Further information

The [Association of Directors of Public Health](http://www.adph.org.uk) (ADPH) is the representative body for Directors of Public Health (DPH) in the UK. It seeks to improve and protect the health of the population through collating and presenting the views of DsPH; advising on public health policy and legislation at a local, regional, national and international level; facilitating a support network for DsPH; and providing opportunities for DsPH to develop professional practice.

The Association has a rich heritage, its origins dating back 160 years. It is a collaborative organisation working in partnership with others to maximize the voice for public health.

Association of Directors of Public Health

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