



The Association of Directors of Public Health

NHS Long Term Plan “undeliverable” without investment in public health

The ADPH has welcomed the focus on prevention and inequalities in the NHS Long Term Plan but warned that it is “undeliverable” without significant investment in public health and bold national policy change to address the social determinants of health. Research by The Health Foundation sets out the clear need for an extra £3.2 billion per year of funding for public health in local government and the focus must now be on securing a significant and sustainable investment package.

ADPH President Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy said:

“The step change towards a more prevention driven NHS is hugely welcome. We are particularly encouraged by the focus on children and young people and ageing well, cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal conditions, mental health and a much-needed shift towards primary care and community services.

“The NHS is not an island, so much of our health and wellbeing depends on what happens outside traditional NHS settings like hospitals. Action taken by the NHS to reduce carbon emissions, for example, must be matched with reform at a national level.

“The stark reality is that this plan is simply undeliverable without investment in local council led public health – paradoxically from which there will be a further £85 million cut in 2019/20. Directors of Public Health are key partners in delivering this plan and engagement is critical to ensuring integrated local services that improve people’s health and wellbeing.

“The Government must now turn its attention to the Spending Review. The success of this plan depends on significant extra funding for public health and social care; and stronger policy action to address inequalities and the social determinants of health.”

ENDS

Further information

The Association of Directors of Public Health (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

January 2019