



*Association of Directors of Public Health (UK)*

## **Association of Directors of Public Health – submission to Public Health England’s Consultation on the NHS Health Check Programme**

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)

Directors of Public Health (DsPH) are the frontline leaders of public health working across health improvement, health protection, and health care service planning and commissioning. ADPH has a strong track record of collaboration with other stakeholders in public health, including those working within the NHS, local authorities, government and other sectors.

As mentioned in our statement below we support PHE’s planned research and evaluation priorities for the programme.

### **Response**

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. 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. We would support measures and research that enable primary care to adopt a risk stratification approach. Research priorities should include how to improve uptake of NHS health checks amongst the highest risk populations and how to best engage individuals in managing risk factors.

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  
December 2014**

Page 1 of 1

Association of Directors of Public Health (UK)  
Kemp House  
152 City Road  
London EC1V 2NX

• Tel. 020 7832 6944

• e-mail: [president@adph.org.uk](mailto:president@adph.org.uk) • [www.adph.org.uk](http://www.adph.org.uk)