



Association of Directors of Public Health UK

ADPH Briefing- Improving Young People's Health and Wellbeing: A Framework for Public Health

Introduction

In collaboration with ADPH, Directors of Children's Services and the LGA, Public Health England has published a new public health framework on young people's health and wellbeing.

The Framework:

- makes the case for investment in protecting the health of young people aged 10-24;
- sets out six core principles which will promote a more effective, integrated response to needs;
- describes the features of what a good local health offer for young people would consist of;
- poses some key questions for local leaders to assess themselves against.

Why a Framework Now?

The proportions of young people aged 10-24 who drink, smoke, become pregnant and use drugs have been steadily decreasing. However our rates for many of these are higher than other EU countries, and they mask significant inequalities.

The framework shows this is a life stage of significant neural, emotional and physical development and when change is possible. From a public health point of view it highlights the consequences of poor health in this age period lasting a lifetime.

The Framework is also in response to a recommendation by the Chief Medical Officer in her 2012 Annual Report, that PHE should consider the specific needs of this age group. As well as ADPH support, the report has been produced with the Association of Directors of Children Services and the Local Government Association.

It is designed to give practical support to Councillors, Health and Wellbeing Boards, commissioners, and service providers.

Other Supporting Materials

As well as launching the framework, PHE is providing public health teams with:

- local area profiles for young people's health and wellbeing
- local area reports highlighting the main local health issues for this population
- further information and research resources

All this is available at: <http://www.chimat.org.uk/youngpeople/framework>

Later this year PHE will be launching Rise Above, a national youth campaign that will focus on building young people's resilience and help them make positive health decisions. The campaign will reinforce the important role parents and carers have in helping prepare young people for life's challenges.