



The Association of Directors of Public Health

Impact of Funding Reductions on Public Health: ADPH Survey Results

The cuts to English Local Authority public health grants will have a detrimental impact on health say 78% of Directors of Public Health.

Following the 2015 Comprehensive Spending Review announcement, the Association of Directors of Public Health surveyed members to discover the potential impact of the cuts.

The survey shows that all services will suffer reductions by 2017 with non-statutory provision such as weight management, mental health support and smoking cessation being decommissioned in some areas.

These cuts to funding have come as a blow to DsPH particularly within the context of wider local authority cuts and NHS financial difficulties. There will be an increase in health inequalities according to 75% of responses.

One DPH said:

“This is a big ask but it's the same ask that is being made of other senior local government officers. The difference for public health is that we are starting from a more difficult position where it is still a new role for local government and one which is not yet as part of the DNA as it needs to be.”

The impact on the NHS was also stressed:

“The impact on the NHS of council cuts is being ignored by the centre but it is putting the whole joint commissioning/ integration endeavour at risk.”

A significant number of comments emphasised the opportunities that the cuts have provided to have local discussions on longer term priorities.

“The risk is that we all focus on implementing the cuts and lose sight of the longer-term vision”: said one.

ENDS

Further information

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) is a Company Limited by guarantee with charity status registered in England and Wales and is the representative body for Directors of Public Health (DPH) in the UK. The Association is hosted by the UK Health Forum.

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 more than 150 years. It is a collaborative organisation working in partnership with others to maximise the voice for public health.

www.adph.org.uk

Association of Directors of Public Health

February 2016