



The Association of Directors of Public Health

Statement on Freedom of Information requests by the Advisory Group on Contraception

The data obtained through Freedom of Information requests by the Advisory Group on Contraception highlights the need to reverse cuts to public health.

Demand for sexual health services is continuing to grow (attendances at sexual health services have increased by three percent in the last year and by 13% over the last five years). At the same time public health funding in England will have been cut by £531 million by 2020/21.

Directors of Public Health are striving to manage the increasing demand and budget reductions so that they don't impact on service quality.

We know that investing in contraception services delivers a return on investment – every £1 spent on contraceptive services saves £9 across the public sector.

We are calling on the Government to invest in public health and urgently reverse the cuts to public health.

ADPH Vice President, Professor Jim McManus said:

“These figures once again highlight the huge pressures caused by a combination of rising demand and government cuts to public health funding.

Directors of Public Health are currently trying to manage this with a focus on service quality and outcomes. We are also responding to the needs of service users and modernising the way we deliver services, including through online services for people who don't need to attend face to face consultations and offering choice for people who want services delivered in different ways.

However, we have reached the limit of what is possible.

Cuts to the public health budget must be reversed to enable us to protect and improve the sexual health of our communities.”

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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.

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