



The Association of Directors of Public Health

Cuts to public health are “unnecessary, undesirable and unacceptable”

The ADPH has today expressed “deep disappointment” as the Government [announces](#) a further £85 million of cuts to frontline public health services. The ADPH is warning that the current funding situation is “unnecessary, undesirable and unacceptable”.

According to analysis by the Health Foundation, there will have been a £0.7bn real terms cut to the public health grant between 2014/15 and 2019/20. A reduction of almost a quarter in spending per person. This impacts upon frontline public health services such as obesity programmes, drug and alcohol treatment, sexual health, health visitors and school nurses.

The ADPH will be making an ambitious case for investing in public health ahead of the planned Spending Review. We will be calling for £3.2 billion a year extra into public health grants, and additional resources to tackle the social determinants of health, from poverty to housing to transport to crime.

ADPH Chief Executive, Nicola Close, said:

“The decision to make further cuts to frontline public health of £85 million is unnecessary, undesirable and unacceptable.

“Directors of Public Health have been relentlessly focussed on effectively managing funding reductions, in the context of increasing demand, whilst also modernising services. However, this is not sustainable, especially when combined with wider cuts to local government which have hit a range of community facilities that are key to improving public health, such as libraries and leisure centres.

“The Spending Review provides a unique opportunity to put aside the deep disappointment at years of cuts and invest in every possible opportunity to tackle the social determinants of health across national and local government.”

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

December 2018