



The Association of Directors of Public Health

Investment in public health is vital to stop the growth of drug resistant sexually transmitted infections

Following confirmation of new cases of gonorrhoea with high-level resistance to azithromycin and ceftriaxone in England, the Association of Directors of Public Health has called on the Government to provide £3.2 billion a year extra into public health grants to ensure that public health systems are able to stop the growth of drug resistant sexually transmitted infections.

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 has been cut by £0.7bn in real terms between 2014/15 and 2019/20. Directors of Public Health are striving to manage the increasing demand and budget reductions so that they don't impact on patient care, but without additional investment it will not be possible to maintain the same level of service and tackle these new threats.

ADPH Vice President, Professor Jim McManus, said:

“These reports of drug resistant STIs come at a time when local authorities and sexual health services are managing increased demand against a background of significant funding cuts. These cuts are a false economy. Unless we have investment in public health, we will find more cases arise which threaten life and health and become a significant and entirely preventable cost to the NHS.

“We must see continued investment in public health to protect the health of the population and the public purse. We urgently call on the Government to provide the funding to deliver and let Directors of Public Health lead safe services for our populations and prevent an avoidable life-threatening epidemic.”

ENDS

Further information

The [Association of Directors of Public Health](http://www.adph.org.uk) (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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