



The Association of Directors of Public Health

Public health should be a priority in the Spending Review

On Monday 4 February 2019 The Times published an open [letter](#) organised by the Association of Directors of Public Health, and co-signed by 54 health leaders, calling for public health to be a priority in the Spending Review.

ADPH President Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy said:

“The NHS Long Term Plan rightly starts to shift the focus of the health service towards preventing illness and inequalities in health. Health is about much more than the NHS, and to realise this new vision, the NHS needs to work with many partners.

“Tackling the root causes of ill health and creating places in which we can all be healthy is the mission of local government. If we undervalue this public health expertise within local government, the NHS Long Term Plan simply cannot be delivered.

“Directors of Public Health can provide the leadership needed to drive improvements in the determinants of health – housing, air quality, crime and poverty – alongside community public health services, such as alcohol treatment and stop smoking services, which are just as vital as hospital-based support.

“The significant cuts to public health are jeopardising these efforts, which are so fundamental to population health – and the sustainability of the NHS. It is time for a step change in public health funding and national policy action. This must be a priority for the Spending Review.”

Below is the full text of the letter.

Sir, the NHS Long Term Plan offers a welcome shift towards a more preventative service, with care delivered both earlier and closer to where people want and need it. However, the NHS is not an island. Transforming the nation’s health and wellbeing means valuing public health too.

Since 2014/15, the Government has cut council public health budgets by £700 million, including £85 million announced just before Christmas for the upcoming financial year. This funding has two roles - both vital to keeping people well and out of hospital. Councils deliver frontline health services like drug and alcohol treatment, sexual health, weight management, smoking cessation, health visiting and school nursing and are key to tackling the root causes of ill health locally, such as toxic air, poor housing and high crime.

The success of the NHS plan ultimately rests on the delivery of extra funding for public health - and social care - and bolder national policy action to address inequalities and the social determinants of health. Let us now turn our attention to the Spending Review and make significant and sustainable funding for public health a priority.



Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy, President, Association of Directors of Public Health
Dame Professor Donna Kinnair, Acting Chief Executive and General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing
Dr Peter English, Chair, Public Health Medicine Committee, British Medical Association
Gill Walton, Chief Executive and General Secretary, Royal College of Midwives
Nigel Edwards, Chief Executive, Nuffield Trust
Lynda Thomas, Chief Executive, Macmillan Cancer Support
Dr Penny Woods, Chief Executive, British Lung Foundation
Simon Gillespie, Chief Executive, British Heart Foundation
Jennifer Dixon, Chief Executive, The Health Foundation
Alison Cox, Director of Cancer Prevention, Cancer Research UK
Chris Hopson, Chief Executive, NHS Providers
Niall Dickson, Chief Executive, NHS Confederation
Julie Woods, Chief Executive, NHS Clinical Commissioners
Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Chair, Community Wellbeing Board, Local Government Association
Shirley Cramer, Chief Executive, Royal Society for Public Health
Professor John Middleton, President, Faculty of Public Health
Glen Garrod, President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
Councillor David Williams, Spokesman for Health and Social Care, County Councils Network
Rachel Power, Chief Executive, Patients Association
Chris Askew, Chief Executive, Diabetes UK and Chair, The Richmond Group of Charities
Hilary Evans, Chief Executive, Alzheimer's UK
Steve Ford, Chief Executive, Parkinson's UK
Liam O'Toole, Chief Executive, Versus Arthritis
Professor Karen Middleton, Chief Executive, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
Professor Carol Brayne, Special Adviser on Population Health, Royal College of Physicians
Professor Russell Viner, President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
Sir Ian Gilmore, Chair, Alcohol Health Alliance
Howard Sinclair, Chief Executive, St Mungo's
Alison Orman, Interim Chief Executive, British Liver Trust
Mick Armstrong, Chair, British Dental Association
Andy Burham, Chief Executive, British Dietetic Association
Dr Cheryl Adams, Executive Director, Institute of Health Visiting
Deborah Arnott, Chief Executive, Action on Smoking & Health
Oliver Standing, Director, Collective Voice
Dr Olwen Williams, President, British Association for Sexual Health and HIV
Tom Kibasi, Director, Institute for Public Policy Research
Anne Godfrey, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Professor Carrie MacEwen, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
Councillor Isobel Darby, Member Lead for Enhancing Quality of Life, District Councils Network
David Kidney, Chief Executive, UK Public Health Register
Donna Hall, Chair, New Local Government Network
Hugh Ellis, Interim Chief Executive, Town and Country Planning Association
Peter Dixon, President, Royal College of Chiropractors
Dr Brian Fisher, Chair, New NHS Alliance
Professor Anthony Woolf, Chair, Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance
Sylvia Cheater, President, Institute of Health Promotion and Education



Dr Richard Piper, Chief Executive, Alcohol Change UK
Professor Chloe Orkin, Chair, British HIV Association
Deborah Gold, Chief Executive, National AIDS Trust
Natika H Halil, Chief Executive, Family Planning Association
Caroline Cerny, Alliance Lead, Obesity Health Alliance
Ian Green, Chief Executive, Terrence Higgins Trust
Helen Marshall, Chief Executive, Brook
Alison Giles, Interim Chief Executive, UK Health Forum
Sharon White, Chief Executive, School and Public Health Nurses Association

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

February 2019