



# The Association of Directors of Public Health

## ADPH backs call for a new national sexual health strategy

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) welcomes the Health and Social Care Select Committee's report on Sexual Health and supports the call for a national sexual health strategy to support the local delivery of high quality and consistent sexual health services.

A whole system approach should be adopted at both the local and national levels covering prevention, improvement, promotion and protection, spanning the three areas of sexual health, HIV and reproductive health.

Local authorities are well placed to commission and deliver a positive approach to sexual health and can provide strong links with wider services, in particular alcohol and drug misuse services, and services for the victims of sexual violence and assault. It is essential therefore that Directors of Public Health have a seat around the table in the development of any new strategy and that more funding is made available.

ADPH Vice President, Professor Jim McManus, who provided oral evidence to the Health and Social Care Select Committee, said:

"We welcome the report and urge the government to take action to implement the findings. We are in an unacceptable position where inequalities continue to persist and demand for sexual health services is rising. Cuts to public health are a false economy and undermine shared efforts to improve the public's sexual health.

"Looking forward to the Spending Review, the Government must prioritise public health and ensure sexual health funding is increased to levels which do not jeopardise people's sexual and reproductive health.

"Directors of Public Health must be fully engaged and involved in the development of any new sexual strategy."

**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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