

Quality in Public Health: A Shared Responsibility **Toolkit**

This document is a guide for using the spreadsheet toolkit that supports practical implementation of *Quality in Public Health: A Shared Responsibility*¹, especially for local government in England.

Translating the principles from *Quality in Public Health: A Shared Responsibility* (referred to for ease in some places below as Quality in Public Health) into practical programmes of quality improvement may not appear straightforward especially given the large number of quality improvement tools that are available within public health and the different settings where they could potentially be used. Because of this the Quality in Public Health toolkit was developed to map individual quality improvement resources to the overall Quality in Public Health document and facilitate local use. This work is part of overall service development and should be seen in the context of other work and resources such as Public Health England's approaches for reducing health inequalities.

The Quality in Public Health toolkit is designed for use principally by public health teams within local government in England as an aid to the implementation of *Quality in Public Health: A Shared Responsibility* and as a part of sector led improvement. It can be used to help assurance processes and in conjunction with local quality systems as part of service development and delivery. The Quality in Public Health toolkit brings together and maps a range of individual quality improvement documents and tools, identifying appropriate settings for use and linking them to sections of the overall document. This will help teams identify what tools they can potentially use in different circumstances for practical implementation of Quality in Public Health and how they can access them.

On page one of the Quality in Public Health toolkit spreadsheet, the individual resources are set out in a grid according to their appropriate potential settings for use and how they fit into the seven steps for improvement of quality. The axis for the seven steps is colour coded to match the colours in *Quality in Public Health: A Shared Responsibility*. This reflects the importance of ensuring that tools and resources are identified which do not just assess and audit the current position but assist in the measurable improvement of quality. Gaps within the grid demonstrate the potential for the development of new resources.

Each tool or resource on page one of the Quality in Public Health toolkit spreadsheet is hyperlinked to page two where more details are provided as well as links directly to the tool or resource or contact details to get more information. There is also mapping to the key principles and actions from *Quality in Public Health: A Shared Responsibility*.

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¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quality-in-public-health-a-shared-responsibility>

Appendix

Examples of Developing and Using Tools for Quality Improvement in Public Health

This appendix contains examples of how individual resources included within the Quality in Public Health toolkit have been used in local systems to improve quality.

Use of an SLI Toolkit in Norfolk

The key ambition for this work was to bring SLI to life for all staff. Following the development of a local tool it was road-tested. Staff worked in small groups and each had a real project or scenario to work through. This showed the framework to be applicable to real-life scenarios, and so the department agreed to use it as part of their work programme. From the initial use in small groups, the management team have continued to use this method of action learning sets and meet monthly to work through issues in this way. The toolkit is used in these groups to guide the discussions and provide consistency of approach.

The toolkit has also been used by individual teams within the Public Health department. It has been useful for identifying tasks within projects where it can act as a quality checklist. An extension of this is to use it in 1 to 1 meetings, where they have found it to be a good way to maintain focus on quality in a way that is meaningful to all roles. It has been used to set objectives that are linked to quality.

Overall, the flexibility of the toolkit and its applicability to all projects and scenarios means that the Norfolk Public Health department have a tried and tested way of keeping quality improvement front and centre of their activities. This has been extended to other parts of the council; for example, the Trading Standards department is now planning to do a tobacco review using CLear methods.

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Developing Excellence in Local Public Health

The DELPH framework (Developing Excellence in Local Public Health) was first developed within Yorkshire and Humber around the time of the transition to local government in 2013. The aim was to set local standards for public health teams. Small groups from local teams and Public Health England agreed what basic, developing or excellent characteristics would be for local public health in the following areas: health improvement; health protection; health and social care; knowledge and intelligence; capacity building; governance systems.

The framework is designed to be used as a self-assessment tool by local public health teams. It was piloted and then was used both as a stand-alone tool and as a basis for a programme of public health peer challenges within the region. Change over time can be assessed, for example from one year to the next or one peer challenge to the next, and the DELPH framework includes consideration of other tools such as NICE guidance. The framework has recently been updated to reflect how public health has developed within local government and it has also been adapted for use in other parts of England.

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