

Public Health

Report of the Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity

1. How the Council's strategic objectives are being delivered

Devon County Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure the provision of mandated public health services and to improve the health and wellbeing of their residents, while reducing health inequalities. The Public Health Team commission a number of public health services to support the delivery of its strategic objectives and statutory responsibilities. During 2017/18 the sexual health services, substance misuse and domestic and sexual violence services have all been re-procured leading to the commencement of new contracts in 2018. Additionally the universal NHS Health Check programme has recommenced. As part of the Council's responsibilities to reduce health inequalities all services and programmes have elements of targeting towards those families and communities in greatest need, with some services such as the Specialist Stop Smoking Service focused wholly on those most vulnerable.

The Public Health Team continue to work collaboratively with the local NHS delivering its statutory function to provide public health expertise to the Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The Public Health Team has been successful in drawing in additional funding to support the delivery of new programmes and services. This includes funding from NHS England to support the development of Cranbrook as part of the NHS Healthy New Town Programme, Big Lottery funding to support the introduction of a new targeted Diabetes prevention programme and funding from Public Health England for a Making Every Contact Count (MECC) training programme.

2. Mid-year budget position

The current budget position is in keeping with the budget set and published in the Budget Book.

3. Future strategic issues for this service area

The key strategic issue for this service area is the continued annual reduction in the Public Health Grant. A medium term financial plan has been produced to ensure affordability over the coming years.

The other key strategic issue for this service is the future provision of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service. Options for the future delivery mechanism for this service are currently being appraised and will be subjected to public consultation prior to any final decision being taken.

Dr Virginia Pearson
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Electoral Divisions: All

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