


LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Future ambitions of Camden's Public Health Service	
REPORT OF Director of Public Health	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	DATE 12 th September 2023
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This paper provides an update on the transformation of Camden's Public Health service following changes in its organisational structure, which led to the de-merger of the shared Camden and Islington service and the establishment of a distinct Public Health service for Camden. The report details the current Public Health Workforce and Teams and outlines the department's priorities.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report</p> <p>Contact Officer: James Fox Senior Policy and Projects Officer Supporting People Strategy London Borough of Camden 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG James.fox@camden.gov.uk 0207 974 5827</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the report.</p>	

Signed: 

Kirsten Watters, Director of Public Health

Date: 23rd August 2023

1 Introduction and context

- 1.1 Since 2013 when Public Health moved from the National Health Service (NHS) to local authorities (LA) in England, Camden Council has been reliant on a shared Director of Public Health and shared Public Health service hosted by the London Borough of Islington. While the shared team demonstrated many strengths and achievements over its lifetime, the COVID-19 pandemic increased the visibility, need and expectations of Public Health within Camden Council. Following the appointment of a new Director of Public Health for Camden in spring 2021 a decision was taken to de-merge the existing shared team into a discrete Public Health function for Camden. The new Camden Public Health service transferred to Camden on 1 March 2023 and merged with the Children's Integrated Commissioning Team as the new Camden Health and Wellbeing Department. In August the school health improvement service moved from Camden Learning to the department. This enabled a closer alignment of public health professionals across child public health portfolio and maximised the front line health improvement offer to early years settings, schools and families. Health and Wellbeing is located within the new Adults and Health Directorate but works across the breadth of Camden Council.
- 1.2 Borough based public health services are rooted in local government but with branches regionally through the UK Health Security Authority (UKHSA) and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). Within London the Greater London Authority (GLA) also has a statutory duty to give 'regard to' health inequalities and the Regional Director of Public Health is also the Mayor's Statutory Adviser on Health. As such, Camden Public Health have strong relationships with local NHS providers and the Integrated Care Board in North Central London and works with both the GLA, UKHSA and OHID on various public health programmes. The Consultants in Public Health also sit on a number of regional workstreams including homelessness, physical activity, immunisation and child health.

2 The Camden Public Health Workforce and Teams

- 2.1 Our Camden Public Health workforce is multi-disciplinary including registered public health professionals, statisticians and epidemiologists, health psychologists, policy and planning, junior doctors and GP trainees. The public health service has five Consultants in Public Health leading four new teams;
- Adults
 - Behavioural Insights and Public Realm
 - Children and Young People and Child Health Equity
 - Health Protection, Health and Care and Intelligence
- 2.2 In addition to these four public health teams the department also has:

- Integrated children’s commissioning, strategy and governance and early years, schools and families health improvement.
- 2.3 Consultants in Public Health are regulated professionals. They must be on either the UK Public Health Register and or the General Medical Council or General Dental Council. They must have independent annual appraisal of competence to demonstrate they meet Faculty of Public Health RCP guidance. All Consultants within their service work across the five domains of Public Health – health improvement, health protection, health and care services, health intelligence and academic public health. Two of the Consultants are also registered educational supervisors and the department is a busy training location for junior doctors and GP trainees.
 - 2.4 Commissioning and service improvement colleagues and health improvement practitioners and specialists complement the department’s skill set. The children’s integrated commissioning team and the drugs, alcohol and sexual health commissioning team (which sits within Adults) have a range of expertise in service development, commissioning, service improvement and clinical pathway development.
 - 2.5 Many others outside of public health are involved in preventing ill health, promoting good health and reducing inequalities. Some of these are within the NHS (such as public health nursing), many within Local Government (Environmental Health, planning, strategy etc) and some with the third Sector. The service collaborates with these teams and services to maximise their impact and improve outcomes for residents.
 - 2.6 The department is led by the Director of Health and Wellbeing who is the statutory Director of Public Health. The Director of Health and Wellbeing does not hold a portfolio but as a qualified consultant in public health supports a number of public health workstreams across north central London and regionally. They are the joint senior responsible officer for immunisations (with the Chief Nurse) for NCL and the London immunisation lead for the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH). They are also the ADPH London children’s lead and sit on the North Central London Start Well Board. All teams have responsibility for engaging with residents and service users and depending on their portfolio do this using a variety of methods. All teams have in their workplans how they can work to maximise their cross organisation reach around the Camden challenges and missions, recognising that these are focused on the improving the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

3 Health and Wellbeing Department Priorities

3.1 Adults

- 3.2 The Adults team brings together public health advice, strategy and policy with commissioning. Together they focus on improving the lives of our most

vulnerable residents with a wider focus on building population resilience through public mental health and improving the wider determinants of wellbeing. They work closely with housing and adult social care as well as NHS colleagues. The team is responsible for commissioning a range of services including drug and alcohol services, HIV testing and sexual and reproductive health services.

- 3.3 Key priorities for the team include, transforming homelessness services, improving public mental health, improving the mental and physical health of inclusion groups and supporting the Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority of social isolation, community connectedness and loneliness. The team also provides Make Every Contact Count training and leads on suicide prevention.

3.4 **Behavioural insights and Public Realm**

- 3.5 Behavioural insights and public realm addresses the main four behaviours which impact on resident's length and quality of life – food and healthy weight, physical activity, smoking and alcohol. The team draws on behavioural science and insight to support these changes through policy, services, partnership working, and influencing the built environment/public realm – while recognising the impact of the wider determinants of health. The portfolio also links in with work across the public realm, where wider public health guidance and advice are needed. The team commissions the community champions programme and a number of healthy weight and physical activity offers. The Consultant lead and team work closely with a number of other departments on supporting the delivery of the Camden Food Mission and the team provides a range of front line health improvement offers around nutrition.

3.6 **Children and Young People**

- 3.7 A new specialist children's public health service bringing child public health expertise with Children's Integrated Commissioning and the Families, Early Years and Schools health team. The team also has a new specialist focus on child health equity and reducing inequalities in child health outcomes this includes ensuring inequalities are systematically considered as part of the Start Well Transformation Programme for Maternity & Neonatal services and paediatric surgery.
- 3.8 Key strategic objectives are focused on supporting the Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority healthy and ready for school, the Youth Mission and the NCL Start Well clinical priorities.
- 3.9 The service commissions an extremely wide range of health services, including health visiting, school nursing, complex continuing care, mental health and has several priorities including developing an integrated front door approach for children with mental health and/or social care needs,

transforming neurodiversity pathways, and developing integrated community paediatrics. Key current public health priorities include improving oral health, immunisation uptake and adolescent health and wellbeing outcomes.

3.10 Health Protection, Health and Care and Intelligence

3.11 This team brings together health protection, health care public health (including the public health offer to the NHS) and hosts the health intelligence team. Key objectives are the improving the identification and clinical management of long term conditions, screening and immunisation improvement and supporting residents to age well. The health protection team works closely with UKHSA in supporting the public health management of communicable disease with a focus on care and residential settings. The team commissions a range of services within primary care including health checks, hyperlipaemia screening and smoking cessation.

3.12 The Health Intelligence team oversees the specialist analytical function and leads on the joint strategic needs assessment process. It hosts a number of academic collaborations and a specialist qualitative research team. It is led by a new post which is jointly accountable to the Consultant in Public Health and the Council's Chief Knowledge Officer. This is to maximise intelligence and analytic capability across the organisation and improve cross council analytical working.

3.13 The department also has a small Strategy and Governance team which oversees good governance for the contract and commissioning of our services. The team managed our primary and pharmacy contracts, central government data returns for a range of services and leads on maximising social value. It also leads on relationships with Camden Local Medical and Pharmacy Committees and ensures we meet the requirements of the public health grant.

3.14 Measuring improvements in health and wellbeing

3.15 The health intelligence team leads on analysing 'fingertips' which is a large data base of population health outcomes across a wide range of indicators. The team also has access to HealthIntent which is a north central London population registry and disease database. In addition to population health outcomes the team conducts health equity audits, clinical pathway and service evaluation and economic evaluations.

3.16 Commissioned services have a range of key performance indicators which are reviewed and for some services such as drug and alcohol services reported and performance managed in partnership with OHID.

3.17 The public health grant spending is reported to OHID by category and this is analysed and benchmarked by OHID providing an external assurance process to spend and outcome.

4 Finance comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

4.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted on the content of this report and has no comment to make.

5 Legal comments of the Borough Solicitor

5.1 The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to make on the report.

6 Environmental Implications

6.1 The proposals in this report have no environmental impacts.

REPORT ENDS