

Meeting of the Cabinet – 20th June 2012

Report of the Chief Executive

Public Health

Purpose of Report

1. To give further consideration to arrangements for the transfer of the Public Health service to the Council.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Cabinet on 14th March 2012 I submitted a report on the transition arrangements for the transfer of the Public Health service to the Council from the Primary Care Trust with effect from 1st April 2013.
3. At that time the Council was interested in a joint arrangement with Sandwell and I was given delegated authority to explore the viability of this (Minute 111). It was also agreed that the Public Health team would be located within the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services.
4. At the Annual Meeting of the Council in May a new Cabinet portfolio for Health and Wellbeing was created and Councillor Islam was appointed to this portfolio. Over the last few weeks I have had a number of discussions with Councillor Islam and the Leader from which has emerged a different approach. The revised proposal is that we do not pursue any joint arrangement with Sandwell and that the Public Health team be located within the Directorate of the Chief Executive with the Director of Public Health reporting directly to the Chief Executive. The Public Health service would be officially known as the Office of Public Health. As previously proposed, the Director of Public Health would continue to be a member of Corporate Board, and would attend meetings of the Cabinet.
5. A Public Health Transition Group has already been set up to oversee the transfer of Public Health staff to the Council. In addition, to ensure that Public Health is fully integrated within the Council, a Public Health Integration Board, comprising relevant Cabinet Members and Directors, will be appointed in the near future.

6. As I stated at the March meeting, Public Health is an extremely important function and we should welcome its return to local government. We now have an opportunity to develop some creative thinking and good practice that will help us to make significant improvements to the health and wellbeing of the residents of the Borough.

Finance

7. From 2013/14 onwards the Council will receive a ring-fenced grant from Public Health England to support the Public Health function transferring from the NHS.

Law

8. The relevant legislation is contained in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Equality Impact

9. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places new duties to improve the health of the local population, improve the quality of health services and to reduce health inequalities on the Council, the Secretary of State for Health and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that :-
 1. Cabinet rescind minute 111 of its meeting on 14th March 2012.
 2. the Office of Public Health be located within the Directorate of the Chief Executive and the Director of Public Health report directly to the Chief Executive.
 3. the report be noted.

John Polychronakis

.....

JOHN POLYCHRONAKIS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

Contact Officer:- John Polychronakis
(01384) 815201
john.polychronakis@dudley.gov.uk

Background Papers

Report to Cabinet – 14th March 2012