
PUBLIC HEALTH TRANSITION – MEMBER TRAINING

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Bill Dixon, Leader of the Council

Responsible Director - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Resources

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a recommendation from the Standards Committee that mandatory training on public health responsibilities be introduced for all Councillors.

Summary

2. The Standards Committee, at its meeting held on 22nd October, 2012, when considering a report of the Director of Public Health in relation to the public health transition and the future role and responsibilities of local authorities, agreed to recommend to Council that training in relation to this should be mandatory for all Councillors on a one-off basis in advance of April, 2013.
3. It is considered that this training is necessary to ensure that Members have an understanding of the new responsibilities and the implications of these and to ensure that the Authority is prepared for its new responsibilities.

Recommendation

4. Members are asked to approve the recommendation of the Standards Committee that mandatory training on public health responsibilities be introduced for all Councillors on a one-off basis in advance of April 2013, in preparation for public health transition.

Reason

5. To ensure that all Members are aware of the responsibilities of local authorities in relation to public health in advance of the transition.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Resources

Background Papers

Report to Standards Committee – 22nd October, 2012

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues in relation to Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues in relation to Health and Wellbeing.
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report
Diversity	There are no issues relating to Diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	Park East
Groups Affected	There is no impact on any particular group.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend any change to the Budget or Policy Framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report does not adversely impact on the Strategy
Efficiency	This report does not have any direct impact on efficiency.

MAIN REPORT

Information

6. The Standards Committee, at its meeting held on 22nd October, 2012, considered a report of the Director of Public Health in relation to the to the public health transition and the future role and responsibilities of local authorities and recommended that mandatory training in relation to this be undertaken by all Members of the Council in advance of April 2013.
7. The training will be in two stages, the first session, which will be undertaken prior to the end of January 2013 will cover :-
 - an overview of NHS Reforms and the implications for local authorities;
 - ensure that all Members are aware of the new responsibilities across the local authority (People, Place and Resources);
 - outline the implications of the new public health responsibilities across the local authority (People, Place and Resources);
 - concepts of prioritising in public health; and
 - an opportunity for Members to ask questions of public health specialists on the changes and what they mean.

8. A training session which covered the elements of the first session has already been held on the 10th October, 2012, and Members who attended this session will not be required to attend this again. A subsequent date for this first session has been arranged for the 9th January, 2013
9. The second session, which has been arranged for the 27th February, 2013, will be a discursive session to engage Members in exploring the opportunities that public health transition brings and consider how to influence and shape the agenda, working together to improve public health.