

Foreword

Under the current coalition administration, the NHS in England is undergoing significant top-down restructuring with new clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) taking the lead in health service commissioning.

There is also significant change to the public health service with the lead moving back to local authorities from the NHS and a new lead statutory body established as Public Health England (PHE). A number of the new commissioning challenges as a result of the reforms are being reviewed by the NHS Future Forum. A second phase of listening, focusing on the NHS reform aspects of education and training, information, integrated care and the NHS contribution to public health, has commenced and further details on these changes can be expected.

In an age of austerity the prime focus of this publication is to outline the changes and challenges to the public health service in England and to look at the financial case for spending on disease prevention and health promotion schemes to improve the future health of our population.

A series of case studies are included that review the current evidence for investment in public health schemes and their payback. As well as a focus on the areas of obesity, alcohol, smoking, early years' development and health promotion in the workplace, health schemes that provide better preventative and risk-based care through integrated partnerships are also included.

The case for reducing health inequalities is UK-wide: the significant health challenges in Scotland and in some parts of London are examined and estimates of the cost of these inequalities are included. This publication has been developed for the NHS and local authorities for staff leading on public health and finance and those providing support to these disciplines. It also complements a series of health publications and guidance being developed by CIPFA for the NHS and specifically for CCGs.

It must be emphasised that it is not the intention of this guide to provide legal advice but reference is made to sections of legislation that are important.

Best practice guidance on the adoption of change is also included.

We welcome comments on this publication, addressed to Stephen Strutt (stephen.strutt@cipfa.org.uk).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Strutt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a period at the end.

Stephen Strutt

Finance and Policy Manager, CIPFA