

POLICY BRIEFING

for Cabinet

4th October 2011**Background**

To support the new organisation of the NHS as part of the Government's health reforms a few new organisations are being established to take on new roles and responsibilities – some of which would have previously been held by those organisations which are being dissolved.

Below is a briefing on the key new organisations which will be established over the next 12 months:

1. The NHS Commissioning Board

The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for commissioning health services within England. Local Government will be a critical partner to lead together on emergency resilience and joint commissioning. A representative from the NHS Commissioning Board will also attend the Health and Wellbeing Board when agreeing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and approving the local Clinical Commissioning Group Commissioning Plan.

The key roles and responsibilities will:

- support, develop and hold to account an effective and comprehensive system of clinical commissioning groups,
- commission some health services on a national scale,
- hold responsibility for the overall architecture of the health system commissioning,
- oversee a commissioning support infrastructure.

The NHS Commissioning Board will operate in shadow from October 2011.

2. Public Health England

Public Health England will bring together a fragmented system, strengthen the national response on emergency preparedness and health protection and support public health delivery across the three domains of public health through information, evidence, surveillance and professional leadership.

Public Health England will:

- generate information on the state of public health and be a source of information, advice and support for local authorities,

- report on local government contribution in improving population health outcomes as part of the public health outcomes framework,
- providing robust surveillance and local response capabilities to respond to threats to public health and ensure health is protected,
- Hold the joint appointments for Directors of Public Health with local authorities and will provide professional support for Directors of Public Health.

Public Health England will operate in shadow form from October 2011.

3. **HealthWatch**

HealthWacth will be the take on the existing responsibilities of the current Local Involvement Networks and will be public and patient voice for health and social care. HealthWatch will also have a statutory seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

HealthWatch will be responsible for:

- Engaging and championing patients and service users, ensuring their views and opinions are considered in local decision making about services,
- signposting people to health and wellbeing services in York,
- from April 2013, HealthWatch will also be responsible for providing advocacy for complaints about healthcare.

HealthWatch will be established by October 2012.

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