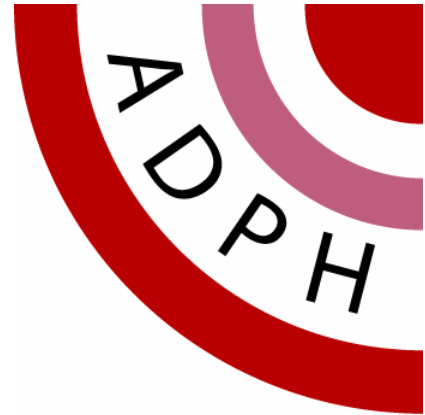


Press Release



Embargoed until 00:00h Thursday 18th October 2007

Association of Directors of Public Health Choosing Health Survey headlines

In late 2004, the Government published the White Paper 'Choosing Health: making healthy choices easier'. This set out the key principles for supporting the public to make healthier and more informed choices in regards to their health. The Government committed to providing information and practical support to get people motivated and improve emotional wellbeing and access to services so that healthy choices are easier to make.

The Department of Health earmarked recurrent funds of £210.5M in 2006-7, and a further £131.0M in 2007-8, making £341.5M in total. These funds were to be allocated to Primary Care Trusts for investment in Public Health Programmes. Funds were not, however, ring-fenced, which meant that they could be spent on other things.

This survey was conducted in April 2007 of England's Directors of Public Health. The sample included all 152 PCTs in England. Findings were based on 103 returns, comprising 68% of these PCTs. Directors of Public Health were asked what proportion of their funds were actually committed on public health programmes during the financial year 2006-7 and what proportion were scheduled to be spent, of the increased allocation in 2007-8.

Choosing Health funding

Overall, two thirds (66%) of the 2006-2007 choosing health allocation was spent on other things. The most common place for the missing money to go was on supporting PCT financial deficits.

- Half of PCTs lost nearly all of their money (80% or more).
- Less than 10% of PCTs spent the full allocation.
- There was not much more confidence reported about the financial year **2007-8**. PCTs reported that just 28% of these funds are likely to be made available.

The major areas for investment, where directors of public health expressed concern for their local population were sexual health, obesity, smoking, alcohol. Others were concerned about investment in coronary heart disease, mental health, health trainers, drugs, cancer, screening and long-term conditions

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Dr Tim Crayford, President of The Association of Directors of Public Health, said:

“Three years after the publication of the Choosing Health white paper, funding intended to tackle preventative health problems is still being used to pay for financial deficits in some parts of the NHS. All the evidence shows treatment for obesity, alcohol and sexual health problems are a drain on NHS resources and with funding now in place to tackle these issues at grass roots level, the government should make sure this is ring fenced so that it is used for its intended purpose.”

ENDS

Note to Editors:

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) is the representative body for Directors of Public Health in the UK. It seeks to improve and protect the health of the population by facilitating the sharing of good practice and presenting the views of Directors of Public Health on public health policy to national governments. www.adph.org.uk.

To interview Dr Tim Crayford, or for further information, please call Amy Gooden, ADPH Press Office, on 020 7544 3103 or email amy.gooden@fishburn-hedges.co.uk.



CH funding survey: detail (2006-7)

Region	Number of PCTs	Returns	% Returns	Total (£M) of those responding	Total committed (£M)	Percent committed
North West	24	17	71%	26.8	15.9	60%
North East	12	8	67%	12.7	4.7	37%
Yorkshire and the Humber	14	11	79%	18.8	5.8	31%
East Midlands	9	6	67%	10.4	5.9	56%
West Midlands	17	11	65%	16.4	3.9	24%
East of England	14	7	50%	8.6	0.58	7%
South West	14	11	79%	10.5	3.0	29%
South Central	9	7	78%	6.9	3.7	53%
South East Coast	8	4	50%	7.4	1.7	23%
London	31	21	68%	20.1	1.4	7%
Total (English PCTs)	152	103	68%	141M	46M	33%