Department of Health

NHS London

# Public health in London: The challenge ahead

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# Characteristics of London population

- Rapid growth
- Highly mobile
- Ethnically diverse
- Large transient population
- Inequalities

➢ Challenges for health outcomes and service delivery

# Improvements in public health

- NHS Prevention Strategy
  - Vascular health
  - Tobacco
  - Screening
  - Childhood immunisation
  - Sexual health

- Other regional initiatives
  - Spearheads
  - Childhood obesity
  - Dental access strategy
  - London TB Strategy
  - Regional Health Inequalities Strategy

- Developing 2012 legacy

# New public health system

- *Liberating the NHS*
- Public health white paper
- The transition in London
  - Public Health Transition Advisory Group
  - Key issues

# ‘Liberating the NHS’

- New Public Health Service (PHS)
  - Part of DH
  - Functions of Health Protection Agency & others
- Directors of Public Health (DsPH)
  - Jointly appointed by PHS & borough, employed by borough
  - Lead on ‘health improvement’, with ring-fenced budget and accountability to to Secretary of State for other public health functions.
- Democratic accountability
  - Health improvement role of local authorities
  - Health & well-being boards

# Public health white paper

- Will set out Government's strategy for public health based on principles of: s**ubsidiarity, co-production, professional leadership** and **system alignment**

- Should include:
  - How PHS will work, including links to health improvement & health services commissioning
  - Detail of outcomes framework

- Legislative changes to feature in Health Bill this autumn

# Transition in London

- Public Health Transition Advisory Group
  - Bring together London's public health leaders
  - Advise DH and London's government
  - Influence policy and manage transition
  - Includes DH, NHS, local government, GLA, Health Observatory, voluntary sector and HPA
- Complex transition
  - 2013-14 budgets
  - Section 75 transfers
- Helping manage interim arrangements as teams start to look to their boroughs

# Current challenges

- NHS management cost savings and CSR
- How public health system will link to:
  - Public Health Service
  - Borough role: health improvement & local services
  - Health service commissioning: GPs and national
- Structural decisions: role of GLA and boroughs?
- Implementing London's Public Health Service
- Orderly transition alongside the NHS, led by SHA

# Opportunities

- Greater alignment of funding, decision-making and outcomes
- Restructuring service delivery
- Developed evidence base
- Strong local intelligence (e.g. JSNAs)
- Common history and purpose

# Summary

- Achievements and expertise of public health across London provide a strong base to build upon.
- Changes in public health delivery provide opportunities to improve efficiency, effectiveness and – ultimately – outcomes.
- Cross-sector process underway to support both transition and continued delivery of improving outcomes.