Department of Health

Public Health Forum 2012: Achieving Excellence in Public Health

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Overview

- Outcome of the Local Authority led stocktake in October 2012 of local PH transition
- Emergent work on developing a framework for excellence in public health in Local government

Overall Position of Local Govt led Stocktake on PH transition

- 95% of Local Authorities (LAs) expect a successful and safe transition

However:

- Over half of LAs identify a range of challenges still to be worked through
- Final arrangements dependent on completion of some national streams of work, including the quantum of the final allocations of the ring fenced grant
- Sector-led support being provided where local challenges are of particular concern

Leadership and vision

- Clear allocations in cabinet portfolios
- Council Leaders taking a direct interest in many localities
- Many references to Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, and to strengths developing in Health and Well-being Boards and Healthwatch
- Most localities concentrating on safe transition
  - High confidence that mandatory functions will be sustained
  - Most areas are expecting to retain inherited range of other functions in 2013/14
  - Some areas transformational in their approach

Workforce issues

- Clear staffing intentions in most localities – subject to final funding allocations
  - Structures ensure access to Chief executive and leading councillors
- Induction processes underway, but more to do
- Worries that PHE and NHSCB recruitment may have impact on specialist capacity in LAs
- Indemnity issues being worked through as additions to existing council arrangements

- DPH vacancies biggest concern in affected localities
  - Expected to require around 133 needed for new arrangements
  - LAs working hard to recruiting DsPH
    - Lack of substantive DPH has impact on leadership and strategic engagement

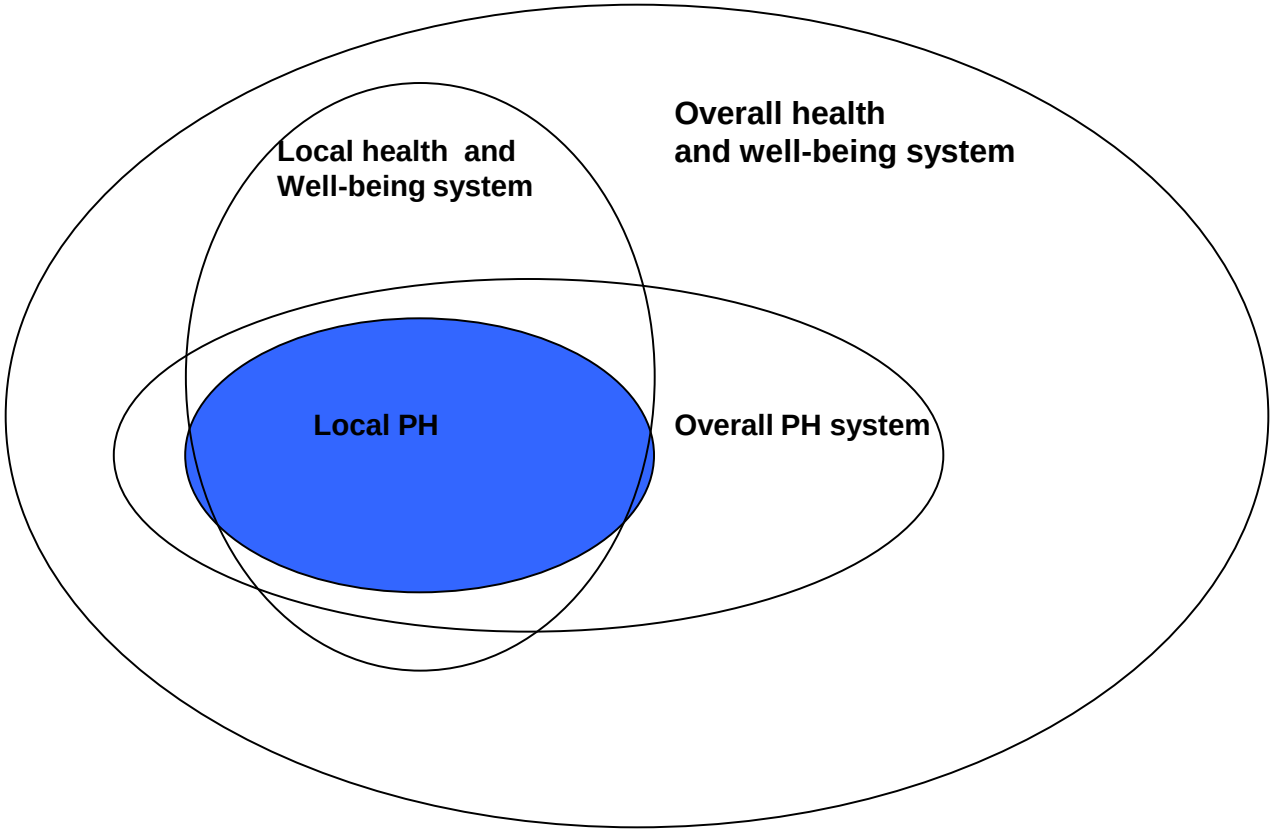
Specific functions and relationships

- Emergency planning guidance and testing welcomed
- Screening and immunisation
- PHE Intelligence & Information fact sheet welcomed
- Good progress on working with CCGs, although detailed MOUs still to be agreed in some areas
- Relationships with Commissioning Support Units under developed

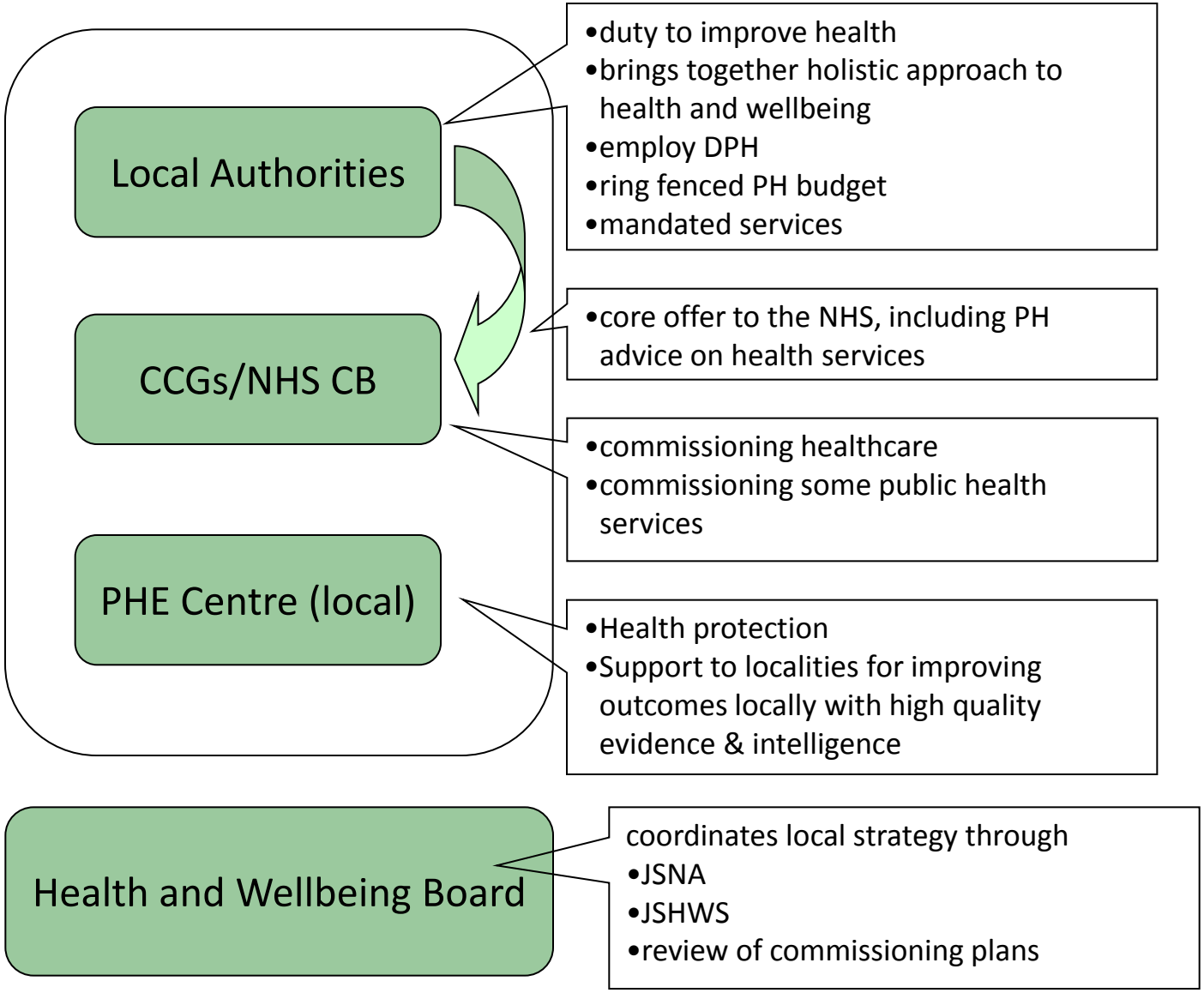
Issues to be resolved by Local Government Sector

- Sector engagement currently in eight localities – 5%
- Mostly because of DPH vacancies
- Support being provided through combination of lead council Chief Exec, LGA Regional Adviser, Regional Director of Public Health and the PH transition lead
- Further local support may be required as final funding allocations and appointments are made

Public Health sits within a number of overlapping systems



Roles in the new public health system



Quality Improvement for PH: Principles

- Focus on improvement in Public Health Outcomes
- Commitment to local governance and accountability for the relevance and impact of local PH
- Centrality of the LG Sector-Led Improvement model which is built on clear set of principles
- Commitment to a version of the NHS Change Model, adapted to the PH context in conjunction with Local government
- Assurance of essential public health and clinical standards
- Alignment of professional standards, effective local functions, and the effectiveness of the overall PH system