

Summary on a Page: January 2012

Public Health transition planning support for primary care trusts and local authorities

📌 What is it?

A guide produced by the NHS and Local Government to support: Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Local Authorities in developing transition plans for the transformation of the local Public Health system; Strategic Health Authorities (SHA) clusters in approving the PCT transition plans and NHS Commissioning Board in assuming its public health responsibilities. It's linked to the *2012/2013 NHS planning guidance to the SHA cluster chief executives*, as it sets out how local authorities and PCT clusters can work together to ensure a smooth transition.

📌 What does it say?

The new system will give new public health responsibilities and resources to local government, which needs to put health and wellbeing at the heart of everything it does. For 2012/13, each PCT cluster must have an integrated plan, including a set of comprehensive plans for each local authority/PCT area, as well as a public health transition plan. According to the *NHS planning guidance for 2012/13*, by specific dates they will also have to:

- Agree arrangements on public health information requirements.
- Test arrangements for public health delivery services and for emergency planning procedures
- Ensure legacy and handover documents are produced.
- Develop public health transition plans with the agreement of local authorities and the engagement of staff and trade unions.

Meanwhile, the Director of Public Health will ensure the transition arrangements are robust. In the future, Public Health England will shape the new public health system with local partners.

There are critical tasks for PCT clusters and local authorities to ensure a robust transition during 2012/13, such as:

- Developing strategies for the new public health role in local authorities and also plans for functions, systems and services.
- Preparing local systems for their new commissioning and contracting role, preparing themselves for formal transfer of staff.
- Ensuring governance arrangements and new clinical governance systems are in place.

A preparation toolkit will be produced by local government. It will focus on the transformational opportunities of the new system, producing a resource that will: support councils in using the full potential of the public health team; give a checklist and examples of good practice to those who haven't started the transition yet; demonstrate the role of public health in supporting council services and support local areas to identify their development needs.

📌 Key links:

- 📄 Read the full document: [Public health transition planning support for primary care trusts and local authorities.](#)