

Local Authority Self-Assessment: 0-5 Public Health Commissioning Transfer

Results tables for North East

April 2015



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Introduction

On 1st October 2015 the responsibility for commissioning public health services for 0-5 year olds will move from NHS England to local government. This will mark the final part of the public health transfer which saw wider responsibilities successfully transfer to local government in 2013.

The Local Government Association (LGA) is supporting councils to prepare for the transfer. It recently wrote to all upper tier local authorities inviting them to complete an online self-assessment exercise. Its purpose was to develop a collective picture of progress, highlight outstanding barriers that require national resolution, identify what support is needed by local partners and identify examples of good practice.

Nine Regional Oversight Groups (ROG) were set up by the LGA to provide support and local oversight of the transfer. Each group is led by the local government lead for that region and includes representation from local authorities, NHS England and Public Health England local teams and the LGA. The ROGs played a key role in the self-assessment exercise by helping to facilitate and support local discussions, providing support and agreeing an overall assessment of their region's progress. This report summarises the results for the North East and includes additional commentary from the Regional Oversight Group.

Results tables for North East

Respondents were asked how confident they were that the arrangements for managing the transition in their locality were clear and achievable. All councils were either very or fairly confident that this was the case.

The North East Regional Oversight Group (ROG) consisted of representation from all local authorities, PHE, the LGA and NHS England. It identified key issues and risks facing the region and mitigated risks by providing sector-led support or where appropriate, by raising them with national partners. All twelve North East local authorities completed the self-assessment and are collectively confident that arrangements for managing the transition are clear and achievable.

Table 1: How confident are you that the arrangements for managing the transition in your locality are clear and achievable?		
	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly confident	12	100
Very confident	9	75
Fairly confident	3	25
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East): 12

Respondents were asked to what extent they were currently working with a) NHS England (formerly known as Area Teams) and b) their provider(s) to ensure commissioning arrangements for the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme will be fully

operational in their council from 1st October 2015. All respondents were working to a great or moderate extent with NHS England and 92 per cent (11 councils) were working to a great or moderate extent with providers.

Table 2: To what extent are you currently working with a) NHS England (formerly known as Area Teams) and b) your provider(s) to ensure commissioning arrangements for the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme will be fully operational in your council from 1st October 2015

	a) NHS England		b) Your provider(s)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
To a great or moderate extent	12	100	11	92
To a great extent	10	83	9	75
To a moderate extent	2	17	2	17
To a small extent	0	0	1	8
Not at all	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0
Total	12	100	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East): 12

Respondents were asked to what extent a) NHS England and b) their provider(s) were working with them to produce and share legacy and handover documents. Ninety two per cent (11 councils) were working to a great or moderate extent with NHS England and seventy five per cent (nine councils) were working to a great or moderate extent with providers.

Table 3: To what extent are a) NHS England and b) your provider(s) working with you to produce and share legacy handover documents?

	a) NHS England		b) Your provider(s)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
To a great or moderate extent	11	92	9	75
To a great extent	9	75	7	58
To a moderate extent	2	17	2	17
To a small extent	1	8	3	25
Not at all	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0
Total	12	100	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East): 12

Respondents were asked how confident they were that the provider(s) from which they will commission 0-5 public health services will be able to discharge their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. All respondents were either very or fairly confident.

Table 4: How confident are you that the provider(s) from which you will commission 0-5 public health services will be able to discharge their functions to safeguard and promote the welfare of children?

	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly confident	12	100
Very confident	10	83
Fairly confident	2	17
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East):12

Respondents were asked how confident they were that their council has all the named individuals with responsibility for safeguarding children, including designated professionals and senior leads in place at Local Safeguarding Children Board level. All respondents were very confident.

Table 5: How confident are you that your council has all the named individuals with responsibility for safeguarding children, including designated professionals and senior leads in place at Local Safeguarding Children Board level?

	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly confident	12	100
Very confident	12	100
Fairly confident	0	0
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East): 12

Respondents were asked if they had a **funding** agreement in place with their neighbouring council(s) which covers their resident population who are registered out of area. None of the 12 councils had a funding agreement in place but four said that this was in progress.

In response to these findings the North East Directors of Public Health (DsPH) have discussed this issue. For the relatively small numbers involved, it was felt that setting up a bespoke system would not be a cost effective solution. Particularly as in the North East the Health Visitor workforce has managed cross border issues successfully in recent years, therefore the DsPH North East Network will continue to monitor the situation.

Table 6: Do you have a funding agreement in place with your neighbouring authority(ies) which covers your resident population who are registered out of area?

	Number	Per cent
Yes	0	0
No – but this is in progress	4	33
No – this is not currently in progress	8	67
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East): 12

Respondents were asked if they had a performance monitoring agreement in place with their neighbouring council(s) which covers their resident population who are registered out of area. None of the 12 councils had a performance agreement in place but four said that this was in progress.

The ROG highlighted that in the North East, it is recognised that there is a need to ensure that Child health Information Systems (CHIS) are robust. Further discussions with NHS England about CHIS and maternity dataset are planned.

Table 7: Do you have a performance monitoring agreement in place with your neighbouring authority(ies) which covers your resident population who are registered out of area?

	Number	Per cent
Yes	0	0
No – but this is in progress	5	42
No – this is not currently in progress	7	58
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East: 12)

Respondents were asked how confident they were that commissioning arrangements for the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme would be fully operational in their council from 1 October 2015. All 12 councils said they were very or fairly confident that the arrangements would be fully operational.

Table 8: How confident are you that commissioning arrangements for the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme will be fully operational in your council from 1st October 2015?

	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly confident	12	100
Very confident	10	83
Fairly confident	2	17
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East: 12)

Respondents were asked how confident they were that their council has appropriate governance arrangements in place to oversee the transition. All councils said they were very or fairly confident that the arrangements were in place.

Table 9: How confident are you that your council has appropriate governance arrangements in place to oversee the transition?

	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly confident	12	100
Very confident	11	92
Fairly confident	1	8
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East): 12

Respondents were asked if their Health and Wellbeing board had discussed the transfer. Seventy-five per cent (nine councils) said yes they had discussed the transfer and the remainder had a discussion scheduled for a future meeting.

Table 10: Has your Health and Wellbeing Board discussed the transfer?		
	Number	Per cent
Yes	9	75
No – but this is scheduled for a future meeting	3	25
No – this discussion is not currently scheduled	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East):12

Respondents were asked to indicate which, if any, people or groups they would share their self-assessment with. All 12 councils stated that they would share the self-assessment with the Director of Public Health, Director of Children's Services and the Portfolio Holder for Health.

Table 11: Please indicate which, if any, of the following people and groups you will share this self-assessment with:		
	Number	Per cent
Director of public health	12	100
Director of children's services	12	100
Portfolio holder for health	12	100
Lead member children's services	11	92
Health and wellbeing board	8	67
Relevant scrutiny chair	5	42
None of the above	0	0
Don't know	0	0

Note: percentages total to more than 100 per cent, since respondents could select more than one person or group.

Respondents were asked to what extent their council had worked with NHS England (previously called Area Teams), as part of commissioning discussions, to agree commissioning intentions for existing contract(s) that were transferring over to their council. All councils said that they had done so to a great or moderate extent.

Table 12: As part of commissioning discussions, to what extent has your council worked with NHS England (previously called Area Teams) to agree commissioning intentions for existing contract(s) that are transferring over to your council?		
	Number	Per cent
To a great or moderate extent	12	100
To a great extent	11	92
To a moderate extent	1	8
To a small extent	0	0
Not at all	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East):12

Respondents were asked to indicate which option for the transfer of contracts from NHS England to councils for contracts that expired at 31 March 2015 their council had taken. All but one respondent (11 councils) stated that they would put in place two similar but separate 6 month contract(s) with the provider.

Table 13: Which of the following has your council opted to do?		
	Number	Per cent
Novate contract(s) from NHS England to your council	1	8
Put in place two similar but separate 6 month contract(s) with the provider. (This option includes one contract for April to September 2015 between NHS England and the provider and another for October 2015 to March 2016 between the local authority and the provider)	11	92
Not applicable	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East):12

Respondents were asked if any of the NHS England contracts that required transferring to their council ran beyond 30 September 2015. No councils said that contracts ran beyond 30 September 2015.

Table 14: Do any of the NHS England contracts that require transferring to your council run beyond 30 September 2015?		
	Number	Per cent
Yes	0	0
No	12	100
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base: (all respondents in North East): 12

Respondents were asked if their council had communicated its intended approach to contract transition to the current children's 0-5 years public health service provider(s). All but one (11 councils) said they had done so.

Table 15: Has your council communicated its intended approach to contract transition to the current children's 0-5 years public health service provider(s)?		
	Number	Per cent
Yes	11	92
No – but plans for this are being developed	1	8
No- plans for this have not yet been developed	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East):12

Respondents were asked if their council had put plans in place for minimum standardised a) data collection and b) reporting requirements that support the effective commissioning of children's 0-5 years public health services. Eighty three per cent (10 councils) said that they had put plans in place for minimum standardised data collection and 75 per cent of respondents (nine councils) had put plans in place for reporting requirements that support the effective commissioning of children's 0-5 years public health services.

Table 16: Has your council put plans in place for minimum standardised a) data collection and b) reporting requirements that support the effective commissioning of children's 0-5 years public health services?

	a) data collection		b) reporting requirements	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Yes	10	83	9	75
No – but plans are in development	2	17	3	25
No – plans for this have not yet been developed	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0
Total	12	100	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East): 12

Respondents were asked how confident they were that the provider(s) from which their council will commission services are taking steps to:

- a) Improve their local management of child health information, making use of Child Health Information Systems (CHIS) and other IT systems where appropriate.
- b) Achieve compliance with the national Maternity and Children's Dataset in order to be able to submit a standard set of data to the Health and Social Care Information Centre from where national and local benchmarked reporting of Key Performance Indicators will flow in the longer term.

Seventy five per cent (nine councils) were either very or fairly confident that the provider(s) are taking steps to improve their local management of child health information, making use of CHIS and other IT systems where appropriate. Fifty eight per cent (seven councils) were either very or fairly confident that the provider(s) are taking steps to achieve compliance.

Table 17: How confident are you that the provider(s) from which your council will commission services are taking steps to: a) Improve their local management of child health information systems (CHIS) and other IT systems where appropriate b) Achieve compliance with the national Maternity and Children's Dataset in order to be able to submit a standard set of data to the Health and Social Care Information Centre from where national and local benchmarked reporting of Key Performance Indicators will flow in the longer term?

	a) Improve CHIS and IT systems		b) Achieve compliance	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly confident	9	75	7	58
Very confident	5	42	5	42
Fairly confident	4	33	2	17
Not very confident	1	8	1	8
Not at all confident	0	0	0	0
Don't know	2	17	4	33
Total	12	100	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East): 12

Respondents were asked how confident they were that existing contract(s) include the five universal checks and the related children's 0-5 year's public health outcomes. All councils were either very or fairly confident.

Table 18: How confident are you that existing contract(s) include the five mandated universal checks and the related children's 0-5 year's public health outcomes?

	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly confident	12	100
Very confident	11	92
Fairly confident	1	8
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents North East): 12

Respondents were asked how confident they were that baseline data about their resident population for the five mandated universal checks was being shared with them prior to 1 October 2015, against which council performance could be measured in the future. All but one respondent (11 councils) were either very or fairly confident.

Table 19: How confident are you that baseline data about your resident population for the five mandated universal checks is being shared with you prior to 1 October 2015, against which council performance can be measured in the future?

	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly confident	11	92
Very confident	8	67
Fairly confident	3	25
Not very confident	1	8
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents North East): 12

Respondents were asked how they would rate the usefulness of the information that they have received about the transfer. All councils rated the information that they had received as very or fairly useful.

Table 20: How would you rate the usefulness of the information you have received about the transfer?

	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly useful	12	100
Very useful	7	58
Fairly useful	5	42
Not very useful	0	0
Not at all useful	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	12	100

Base (all respondents in North East): 12

Respondents were asked to identify which communication routes they normally used to receive information and which they found useful. All councils received information through bulletins from the professional associations and all but one received

information through the Department of Health website. All councils found the Department of Health website the useful.

Table 21: Which of the following communication routes do you normally a) receive information through b) find useful?

	Receive information through		Find useful?	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Bulletins from the professional associations	12	100	10	83
Department of Health website	11	92	12	100
LGA bulletins	8	67	7	58
Regional oversight groups	8	67	6	50
LGA website	7	58	9	75
None of the above	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0

Note: percentages total to more than 100 per cent, since respondents could select more than one communication route.

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