



Department of Health

As part of wider Government action on deficit reduction, the Department of Health (DH) has been asked to deliver savings of £200 million in 2015/16 through reductions to the Public Health Grant to local authorities (LAs). This consultation sets out possible options on how the £200 million savings might be spread across LAs and asks three questions on how they can be delivered most fairly and effectively.

Question 1:

Question 1:

Do you agree with DH's preferred option (C) for applying the £200 million saving across LAs? If not, which is your preferred option?

Please tick your preferred option or describe an alternative :

- A
- B
- C
- D

Option D: Additional information on local needs

Other comments:

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) is not supportive of the savings described in this consultation document. Along with organisations such as the British Medical Association and the UK Faculty of Public Health we oppose what we believe to be unwise cuts.

Question 2: How can DH, PHE and NHS England help LAs to implement the saving and minimise any possible disruption to services?

A number of valuable local authority services are likely to be adversely impacted including:

- Child Health services - e.g., School Nurses, Health Visitors, breast feeding support, child weight management, work to stop children starting smoking.
- Mental Health services - e.g., Mental Health teams, befriending services for older people, reducing isolation and promoting community connectedness programmes, bereavement support, advice services including debt management and financial capability programmes, suicide prevention programmes, green space programmes, domestic abuse support, and Mental Health in the Workplace.
- Drug & Alcohol services - e.g., drug and alcohol prevention, treatment and linked recovery support; community drug and alcohol teams.
- Sexual Health services - e.g., Chlamydia screening, STI treatment and support; and contraception.
- Health Improvement services - e.g., health checks, health trainers and healthy weight services.

The public is unlikely to see the distinction between direct NHS services and LA-provided health services. Many of the services provided through the Public Health Grant are widely understood as forming part of the NHS.

Question 3: How best can DH assess and understand the impact of the saving?

Analysis by the Faculty of Public Healthⁱ suggests those Local Authority areas which are likely to be hit hardest, based on the different options.

We believe these cuts are a false economy, and their impact on important preventative services will generate future additional costs to both the NHS and Local Authorities. They are not consistent with the Government's stated intention to move from a focus on cure to a focus on prevention.

The completed form should be either emailed to:
consultation.laphallocations@dh.gsi.gov.uk
or posted to: Consultation on Local Authority Public Health Allocations
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Public Health Policy and Strategy Unit
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Richmond House
79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS

ⁱhttp://www.fph.org.uk/children%E2%80%99s_health_could_be_affected_by_cuts%2c_say_public_health_experts