

Appendix A

The district council contribution to public health: a time of challenge and opportunity (King's Fund, 2016)

Ten recommendations for the future:

Recommendation 1: The District Councils' Network (DCN) should develop an engagement and partnership strategy to support its members as they navigate the landscape that is emerging in the wake of recent public health reforms

Recommendation 2: The DCN should continue to advocate for and support its members in the ongoing negotiations around devolution and its implementation. The devolution agenda provides an ideal opportunity for district councils to ensure their long term contribution to health improvement remains at the core of this agenda.

Recommendation 3: Clinical Commissioning groups (CCGs) and county councils should include district councils when discussing alignment as one key part of the 'out-of-hospital car' system. District Councils are a key partner in improving the relationship between the health and social care system and the community.

Recommendation 4: The DCN should work with directors of public health and their representative bodies (including the Association of Directors of Public Health and the Faculty of Public Health) and the NHS to better articulate district councils' prevention role in the Forward View (for example, through their role in providing leisure services)

Recommendation 5: District councils should be more proactive in collating existing evidence on the health economics of their activities.

Recommendation 6: Public Health England should work with the DCN to systematically develop the evidence on the health economics of district councils' functions. This should be one of the first tasks under the aegis of Public Health England's new health economics framework.

Recommendation 7: The DCN should work with Public Health England to skill up and train district council officers in health economics to secure better decisions in the long term.

Recommendation 8: The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health should as a matter of urgency, work with the DCN and other relevant parties to better understand the cost-effectiveness and return on investment of environmental health services.

Recommendation 9: District Councils need to invest in health impact assessment (HIA) to move beyond innovative case studies of processes to show demonstrable improvements in health outcomes.

Recommendation 10: Over time, the DCN, or designated body should develop an accessible catalogue of relevant HIAs and make it available to all district councils.