

Lewisham Public Health Savings Consultation

‘Staying Healthy’ Services Stakeholder Event

The event was attended by a range of stakeholders, with 40 attendees including

- Clinical commissioners
- Current service providers
- Representatives of community groups
- Local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations
- Healthcare partners including GPs, pharmacists and Lewisham and Greenwich Trust
- Healthwatch Lewisham

The event progressed and is recorded according to the agenda below.

1) Welcome & Introduction Dr Danny Ruta, Director of Public Health, outlined the historical context for Public Health nationally. He went through the financial situation nationally, both within Public Health and the Public Sector more broadly. Finally he explained the scale of the challenge locally for Lewisham Council.

2) Staying Healthy Background & Proposals

Iain McDiarmid, Public Health Commissioning Manager, went into detail on what the financial challenge was for Public Health services locally, and specifically for Staying Healthy services. He then went through each of the Council’s proposals for delivering the required level of savings (£800,000 savings from expenditure of £2,300,000).

3) Health Impact Assessment findings & Health Challenges in Lewisham

Dr Catherine Mbema, Public Health Registrar, Explained the Council’s approach to the Health Impact Assessment of proposals, incorporating feedback from consultation with public and professionals, examination of reporting data from existing services, and an evidence review. She then went through each proposal outlining potential health and equalities impacts, as well as current proposals for mitigating those impacts.

4) Questions

Jane Miller, Deputy Director of Public Health, facilitated open questions from attendees:

1. **Q:** Weight management – you mention a small percentage of obese Children in Lewisham have been seen by the service, why such a small number?
A: *Jane Miller:* Service has never had enough resources to provide services to scale, and has prioritised the more obese children, as well as Reception and Year 6 children as part of the national child measurement programme.
2. **Q:** The national figures you presented on Public Health savings show a disproportionate reduction in stop smoking services. Why is this?
A: *Danny Ruta:* It isn’t clear why this is the case, but these are national figures, and will include councils with a variety of political positions. In some councils the view is that lifestyle behaviour such as smoking is a matter of personal choice.

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3. **Q:** I see your mitigations potentially include weight management services, is there evidence on the benefits of Weight Watchers for example?

A: *Danny Ruta:* there is good Randomised Control Trial evidence on weightwatchers, cited in a British Medical Journal publication. There is also local evaluation to demonstrate effectiveness with average weight loss of 5%.

4. **Q:** What will the impact on sexual health be? What about STD rates and teenage pregnancy, as a lot of work has been done locally around these areas?

A: *Iain McDiarmid:* This event is focussed on Staying Healthy services, as consultation on changes to sexual health locally has already taken place as part of the London Transformation Programme and our regional partnership with Lambeth and Southwark. It is worth noting however that the bulk of the £500k savings for Sexual Health do not come from changes to patient-facing services, but from back-office changes to tariffs and payment mechanisms between providers and commissioners all over London, so impacts on patients and partners should be minimal.

5) Workshops

Jane Miller, Deputy Director of Public Health, asked stakeholders to form workshops to consider each of the proposals, particularly asking attendees:

- *Are there any principles you would like the redesign to consider?*
- *Are there any particular risks you would like to flag?*
- *Can you identify any potential mitigation the Council could consider?*

6) Workshops feedback

Jane Miller, Deputy Director of Public Health, facilitated a feedback session for the workshop groups. Feedback within the session comprised:

- A group made a request for greater inclusivity at an earlier stage in disinvestment priorities for any future cuts, and for more explicit criteria for disinvestment.
- A group fed back the message that when implementing the savings, attempts should be made to balance equity considerations against cost-effectiveness, especially for the most disadvantaged. It is important not just to focus on the outcomes delivered, but for whom they are delivered, and to ensure equity of access particularly.
- A group raised the challenge of taking a more holistic approach to health improvement, the need to make every contact count both in public health services and across the council.
- A group emphasised the importance of effectively balancing the use of population based public health interventions for the greatest scale of impact whilst understanding the need for services targeted at individuals, particularly to support equity.
- A group suggested that the Council consider making deeper cuts than the savings requirement and re-invest the surplus in the voluntary sector to support innovation.

7) Questions

Jane Miller, Deputy Director of Public Health, facilitated open questions from attendees:

1. **Q:** Interventions – A warning of potential risks of the provision of digital services, and the challenge of digital inclusion particularly using the example of working with vulnerable young people. A request to take a balanced approach to digital access versus face to face for services.

A: *Iain McDiarmid:* Digital inclusion is an issue for the whole council and government more broadly. Lewisham has been involved with projects focussing on this such as 'Universal Support' and 'Go on Lewisham'. In Public Health we are seeking to target face-to-face services where they're most effective and look at what we can deliver effectively through other channels.

2. **Q:** A lot of the mitigations you mention are contracts that have already been commissioned, what opportunities are there for community groups and small organisations to get involved in this?

A: *Iain McDiarmid:* part of the Council's mitigation plans includes a commitment to investing in the provision of small health-focussed grants in each of the 4 Lewisham Neighbourhoods. This is explicitly to build on the success of this approach in North Lewisham and in Bellingham, and to support the work of the voluntary and community sector locally.

3. **Q:** Why don't we work together with agencies to save money?

A: *Danny Ruta:* we are consistently trying to build partnerships to save, but due to the scale of the cuts (circa 30%) it makes it difficult to make arguments to others whose budgets are also under such pressure

4. **Q:** The findings of the Lambeth & Southwark Early Action Commission have recently been published by the New Economics Foundation, and were commended by an attendee for reference.

A: as requested the link for this report is here:

<http://www.neweconomics.org/publications/entry/local-early-action-how-to-make-it-happen>

8) Closing Remarks

Dr Danny Ruta, Director of Public Health, thanked those providers and commissioners present who had helped to deliver public health outcomes for Lewisham residents in the past. Many of those present will be critical in the re-shaping and re-commissioning of health improvement services and initiatives going forward. Dr Ruta welcomed the enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by partners at the event, and expressed the council's commitment to continue to work together to co-produce solutions that can deliver public health outcomes with the resources remaining.

Delegate List



Delegate	Organisation
Alison Hooper	LGT Stop Smoking Service
Amy Frimpong-Baafi	Changing Chapters
Andrea Hughes	DNA
Andrew Milward	Walking for Health
Dr Angelika Razzaque	Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group
Anthea Tennant-Eyles	Breast Feeding Network
Ashleigh Jay	Active Lifestyles for All
Barbara Gray	Cathford South/VAL
Carola Von Deym	Community Connections
Cathy Collymore	Carers Lewisham
Danielle Heath	Telegraph Hill Community Network
David French	Lewisham Christian Churches
Dominic Parkinson	Bromley and Lewisham Mind
Dr Martin Bethell	Quality Medical Solutions
Edun Josephine	Lewisham & Greenwich Trust (CHIS)
Fay Williams	GCDA
Folake Segun	Healthway Bromley & Lewisham
George Podd	Mytime Active
Helena Taylor	Mytime Active
Husseina Hamza	African Advocacy Foundation
Jamie Hierscher	Lifeline The Hub
Jane Briers	Weight Watchers Health Solutions
Jayesh Patel	Lambeth, Southwark & Lewisham Local Pharmaceutical Committee
Jeanne Kasunzu	BCP Bellingham Community Project
Jeff Rowland	Lifeline The Hub
Livia La Camera	GCDA
Mahad Abdullah	Somali and Somaliland Community Centre
Malcolm Cadman	Pepys Community Forum
Marc Rowland	Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group
Marzena Zoladz	Healthwatch Lewisham
May Morgan	Changing Chapters
Nana Ocran	Diabetes Champion
Nora Negga	Breast Feeding Network - Peer Support
Pam Menzie-Banton	PCRS Blenheim CDP
Rob Walis	Walking for Health
Rosanna Ottewell	Voluntary Action Lewisham
Rosario Guimba-Stewart	Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network
Rosemarie Ramsay	Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group
Salim Jetha	Lambeth, Southwark & Lewisham Local Pharmaceutical Committee
Sally Brothers	Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust
Dr Simon Parton	LMC - Local Medical Committee
Susanna Masters	Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group
Tom Gallagher	Sydenham Garden A Community Budget