

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

Results tables for Greater London

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 London and includes additional commentary from the Regional Oversight Group.

## Results tables for Greater London

Please note that, one group of three London boroughs provided a joint response and so for the purposes of this report are treated as one council. The total number of councils reported here are therefore 31 rather than 33.

The Regional Oversight Group (ROG) highlighted a number of significant risks were found in relation to funding, data and reporting, FNP and coordinated working with neighbouring boroughs to address issues of resident vs. registered populations.

Whilst the self-assessment did not have a specific question on funding there were a number of boroughs who reported significant concerns in the free text section about; funding allocations, health visitor trajectories that are below target and the impact of this on funding and concerns about the quality of services that are transferring.

A degree of risks applies to all of the London boroughs but the most significant risk lies with a smaller number of boroughs representing between a quarter and a third. Local discussions are taking place and where necessary are involving the Department of Health and NHS England in order to resolve outstanding issues.

As a result of the self-assessment NHS England London is using the findings to inform a plan of action to support boroughs on a bespoke basis and will continue to provide support across the region.

Respondents were asked how confident they were that the arrangements for managing the transition in their locality were clear and achievable. Eighty four per cent (26 respondents) were either very or fairly confident that this was the case.

**Table 1: How confident are you that the arrangements for managing the transition in your locality are clear and achievable?**

	Number	Per cent
<b>Very or fairly confident</b>	26	84
Very confident	11	35
Fairly confident	15	48
Not very confident	4	13
Not at all confident	1	3
Don't know	0	0
Total	31	100 <sup>1</sup>

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

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 31 respondents said they were working to a great or moderate extent with NHS England and 94 per cent (29 respondents) 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 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015**

	a) NHS England		b) Your provider(s)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>To a great or moderate extent</b>	31	100	29	94
To a great extent	20	65	20	65
To a moderate extent	11	35	9	29
To a small extent	0	0	2	6
Not at all	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0
Total	31	100	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

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. Eighty four per cent (26 councils) were working to a great or moderate extent with NHS England and 77 per cent (24 councils) were working to a great or moderate extent with providers.

<sup>1</sup> Whilst the individual answer options displayed in Table 1 appear to sum to 99 per cent, this is due to the fact the figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Please note that this may also occur in other parts of the report.

**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
<b>To a great or moderate extent</b>	26	84	24	77
To a great extent	10	32	9	29
To a moderate extent	16	52	15	48
To a small extent	4	13	6	19
Not at all	1	3	1	3
Don't know	0	0	0	0
Total	31	100	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

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. Ninety per cent (28 councils) 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
<b>Very or fairly confident</b>	28	90
Very confident	13	42
Fairly confident	15	48
Not very confident	1	3
Not at all confident	1	3
Don't know	1	3
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

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 31 councils) were either very or fairly 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
<b>Very or fairly confident</b>	31	100
Very confident	27	87
Fairly confident	4	13
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

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. One council said they did have a funding agreement in place, and of the 29

that did not, two said that this was currently in progress. The ROG highlighted this as a major area of concern and a potential risk with safeguarding implications.

**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	1	3
No – but this is in progress	2	6
No – this is not currently in progress	27	87
Don't know	1	3
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

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. One council said they did have a performance monitoring agreement in place, and of the 29 that did not, three said that this was in progress.

**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	1	3
No – but this is in progress	3	10
No – this is not currently in progress	26	84
Don't know	1	3
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

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. Eighty seven per cent (27 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 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015?**

	Number	Per cent
<b>Very or fairly confident</b>	27	87
Very confident	18	58
Fairly confident	9	29
Not very confident	2	6
Not at all confident	2	6
Don't know	0	0
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

Respondents were asked how confident they were that their council has appropriate governance arrangements in place to oversee the transition. All but one respondent (30 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
<b>Very or fairly confident</b>	30	97
Very confident	24	77
Fairly confident	6	19
Not very confident	1	3
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

Respondents were asked if their Health and Wellbeing board had discussed the transfer. Sixty one per cent (19 councils) said yes they had discussed the transfer. Of the 11 councils who had not discussed the transfer with their board, nine said that this was scheduled for a future meeting.

**Table 10: Has your Health and Wellbeing Board discussed the transfer?**

	Number	Per cent
Yes	19	61
No – but this is scheduled for a future meeting	9	29
No – this discussion is not currently scheduled	2	6
Don't know	1	3
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

Respondents were asked to indicate which, if any, people or groups they would share their self-assessment with. All councils said that this would be shared both with the director of public health and the director of children's services. A majority also said the self-assessment would be shared with the lead member for children's services, the health and wellbeing board and the portfolio holder for health (19, 18 and 18 councils, respectively).

**Table 11: Please indicate which, if any, of the following people and groups you will share this self-assessment with:**

	Number	Per cent
Health and wellbeing board	18	58
Director of public health	31	100
Director of children's services	31	100
Portfolio holder for health	18	58
Lead member children's services	19	61
Relevant scrutiny chair	9	29
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. Ninety per cent (28 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
<b>To a great or moderate extent</b>	28	90
To a great extent	19	61
To a moderate extent	9	29
To a small extent	3	10
Not at all	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London):31

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. A majority of respondents (20 councils) stated that they would novate contract(s) from NHS England to their council.

**Table 13: Which of the following has your council opted to do?**

	Number	Per cent
Novate contract(s) from NHS England to your council	20	67
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)	10	33
Not applicable	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	30	100

Base: (all respondents in Greater London):30<sup>2</sup>

Respondents were asked if any of the NHS England contracts that required transferring to their council ran beyond 30 September 2015. Just over half (16 councils) indicated that that contracts would not run 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	13	43
No	16	53
Don't know	1	3
Total	30	100

Base: (all respondents in Greater London):30<sup>3</sup>

Those respondents who specified that they did have contracts that ran beyond 30 September 2015, were then asked if their council intended in principle to accept

<sup>2</sup> One council did not respond to this question.

<sup>3</sup> One council did not respond to this question

novation of these contracts from NHS England to local authority control with effect from 1 October 2015. All 13 of those respondents said that they intended to accept novation.

**Table 15: Does your council intend, in principle, to accept novation of these contracts from NHS England to local authority control with effect from 1 October 2015?**

	Number	Per cent
Yes, we intend to accept novation	13	100
No, we don't intend to accept novation	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	13	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London who had contracts that ran beyond 30 September 2015): 13

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). Eight seven per cent (27 councils) said they had done so.

**Table 16: 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	27	87
No – but plans for this are being developed	4	13
No- plans for this have not yet been developed	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London):31

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. Forty two per cent of respondents (13 councils) said that they had put plans in place for minimum standardised data collection and 39 per cent of respondents (12 councils) had put plans in place for reporting requirements that support the effective commissioning of children's 0-5 years public health services.

**Table 17: 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	13	42	12	39
No – but plans are in development	16	52	16	52
No – plans for this have not yet been developed	2	6	3	10
Don't know	0	0	0	0
Total	31	100	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

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.

Sixty eight per cent (21 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 two per cent (16 councils) were either very or fairly confident that the provider(s) are taking steps to achieve compliance.

**Table 18: 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
<b>Very or fairly confident</b>	21	68	16	52
Very confident	5	16	6	19
Fairly confident	16	52	10	32
Not very confident	5	16	8	26
Not at all confident	0	0	1	3
Don’t know	5	16	6	19
Total	31	100	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

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. Eighty seven per cent (27 councils) of respondents were either very or fairly confident

**Table 19: 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
<b>Very or fairly confident</b>	27	87
Very confident	14	45
Fairly confident	13	42
Not very confident	1	3
Not at all confident	2	6
Don’t know	1	3
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents Greater London): 31

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. Seventy seven per cent of respondents (24 councils) were either very or fairly confident.

**Table 20: 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
<b>Very or fairly confident</b>	24	77
Very confident	7	23
Fairly confident	17	55
Not very confident	6	19
Not at all confident	1	3
Don't know	0	0
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

Respondents were asked how they would rate the usefulness of the information that they have received about the transfer. All but one respondent (30 councils) rated the information that they had received as very or fairly useful.

**Table 21: How would you rate the usefulness of the information you have received about the transfer?**

	Number	Per cent
<b>Very or fairly useful</b>	30	97
Very useful	8	26
Fairly useful	22	71
Not very useful	0	0
Not at all useful	1	3
Don't know	0	0
Total	31	100

Base (all respondents in Greater London): 31

Respondents were asked to identify which communication routes they normally used to receive information and which they found useful. The communication route through which the highest number of respondents received information (90 per cent / 28 councils) was bulletins from the professional associations. A majority also received information through the Department of Health website, LGA bulletins and the LGA website (26, 23 and 20 councils, respectively). The highest number of respondents (81 per cent / 25 councils) found the Department of Health website useful, but a majority also found bulletins from the professional associations, LGA bulletins and the LGA website useful (24, 21 and 16 councils, respectively).

**Table 22: 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
LGA website	20	65	16	52
LGA bulletins	23	74	21	68
Regional oversight groups	13	42	10	32
Department of Health website	26	84	25	81
Bulletins from the professional associations	28	90	24	77
None of the above	0	0	2	6
Don't know	0	0	1	3

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

Following analysis of the self- assessments the ROG's next steps are:

- NHS England London will develop a remedial plan to support boroughs on a bespoke basis and will also continue to support boroughs across the region.
- A number of workshops are planned to provide a forum in which some more generic issues can be discussed.

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