

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

Results tables for South 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 South East and includes additional commentary from the Regional Oversight Group.

Results tables for South East

The South East Regional Oversight Group (ROG) was pleased to see that all local authorities across the region completed the self-assessment, this is indicative of the high level of attention South East local authorities are giving to this area of work.

Overall the results show high confidence levels across the region. In the case of a very small number of councils low confidence levels were expressed in response to some questions. For one council this was a result of a lack of capacity at the time the self-assessment was completed. A vacant post has since been filled, and the council is more confident that work is being delivered. In another council, their self-assessment results reflected particular challenges occurring at the time the self-assessment was completed, however, these challenges have since been resolved.

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.

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	19	100
Very confident	10	53
Fairly confident	9	47
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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 but one council were working to a great or moderate extent with NHS England and all 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

	NHS England		Your provider(s)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
To a great or moderate extent	18	95	19	100
To a great extent	16	84	17	89
To a moderate extent	2	11	2	11
To a small extent	1	5	0	0
Not at all	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0
Total	19	100	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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 nine per cent (17 councils) were working to a great or moderate extent with NHS England and 89 per cent (17 councils) were also 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?

	NHS England		Your provider(s)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
To a great or moderate extent	17	89	17	89
To a great extent	9	47	10	53
To a moderate extent	8	42	7	37
To a small extent	2	11	1	5
Not at all	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	1	5
Total	19	100	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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 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
Very or fairly confident	19	100
Very confident	7	37
Fairly confident	12	63
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0

Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East) 19

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 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
Very or fairly confident	19	100
Very confident	17	89
Fairly confident	2	11
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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. Thirteen councils said they did not have a funding agreement in place, but six of those said that this was in progress.

The ROG highlighted that the minority of councils in the region had a funding agreement and a performance monitoring agreement in place with their neighbouring council(s) to cover their resident population who are registered out of area. It raised that these challenges are being experienced across the country and that there is a need for national guidance on how to manage resident and registered issues to ensure service continuity and appropriate record keeping. There were also concerns raised in the free text about whether the funding earmarked for the 0-5 public health transfer will be sufficient to continue to deliver services to the required standards.

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	5	26
No – but this is in progress	6	32
No – this is not currently in progress	7	37
Don't know	1	5
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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. Thirteen respondents said they did not have a performance monitoring agreement in place, but five of those 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	5	26
No – but this is in progress	5	26
No – this is not currently in progress	8	42
Don't know	1	5
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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 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	19	100
Very confident	14	74
Fairly confident	5	26
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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	19	100
Very confident	14	74
Fairly confident	5	26
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

Respondents were asked if their Health and Wellbeing board had discussed the transfer. Eleven of the 19 councils said this discussion had not taken place, but eight of those said that this was scheduled for a future meeting.

Table 10: Has your Health and Wellbeing Board discussed the transfer?		
	Number	Per cent
Yes	8	42
No – but this is scheduled for a future meeting	8	42
No – this discussion is not currently scheduled	3	16
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

Respondents were asked to indicate which, if any, people or groups they would share their self-assessment with. All councils stated that they would share the self-assessment with the director of children's services, and all but one said that it would be shared with the director of public 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 children's services	19	100
Total	19	100
Director of public health	18	95
Portfolio holder for health	15	79
Lead member children's services	14	74
Health and wellbeing board	10	53
Relevant scrutiny chair	8	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.

The ROG noted that the results for the question about if the self-assessment had been shared with the Director of Public Health (DPH) was in fact 100 per cent because the self-assessment had been completed by the DPH.

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. Eighty nine per cent (17 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	17	89
To a great extent	13	68
To a moderate extent	4	21
To a small extent	2	11
Not at all	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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. The highest number (53 per cent / 10 councils) stated that they would novate contract(s) from NHS England to their council, six said they would put in place two similar but separate contract(s) with the provider and three said the question was not applicable to them.

Table 13: Which of the following has your council opted to do?		
	Number	Per cent
Novate contract(s) from NHS England to your council	10	53
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)	6	32
Not applicable	3	16
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

The ROG noted that it does not have any concerns about the three local authorities who responded 'not applicable' to the question in table 13 because it reflects the councils' plans for contract arrangements.

Respondents were asked if any of the NHS England contracts that required transferring to their council ran beyond 30 September 2015. Sixty eight per cent (13 councils) said that contracts would 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	68
No	4	21
Don't know	2	11
Total	19	100

Base: (all respondents in South East): 19

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 novation of these contracts from NHS England to local authority control with effect from 1 October 2015. All of these 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 South East 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). All but one council 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	18	95
No – but plans for this are being developed	0	0
No- plans for this have not yet been developed	1	5
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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. Less than half (8 councils) said that they had put plans in place for minimum standardised data collection, but all but one of the remainder (10 councils) said that the plans were in development. Less than half had put plans in place for reporting requirements that support the effective commissioning of children's 0-5 years public health services, but all but one of the remainder (10 councils) also said these plans were in development.

The ROG highlighted that there was a strong desire in the region for support from national partners for this issue.

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?

	data collection		b) reporting requirements	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Yes	8	42	8	42
No – but plans are in development	10	53	10	53
No – plans for this have not yet been developed	1	5	1	5
Don't know	0	0	0	0
Total	19	100	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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

- improve their local management of child health information, making use of Child Health Information Systems (CHIS) and other IT systems where appropriate.
- 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.

Eighty nine per cent (17 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. Seventy nine per cent (15 councils) were either very or fairly confident that the provider(s) are taking steps to achieve compliance.

The ROG highlighted concerns about a potential lack of communication between different CHIS providers and a danger that children could have incomplete records. There was also some anxiety relating to a previous serious incident involving CHIS.

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?

	Improve CHIS and IT systems		Achieve compliance	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Very or fairly confident	17	89	15	79
Very confident	5	26	5	26
Fairly confident	12	63	10	53
Not very confident	1	5	1	5
Not at all confident	0	0	1	5
Don't know	1	5	2	11
Total	19	100	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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 19 councils 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
Very or fairly confident	19	100
Very confident	16	84
Fairly confident	3	16
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

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. Eighty nine per cent of respondents (17 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
Very or fairly confident	17	89
Very confident	9	47
Fairly confident	8	42
Not very confident	2	11
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

Respondents were asked how they would rate the usefulness of the information that they have received about the transfer. All 19 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
Very or fairly useful	19	100
Very useful	4	21
Fairly useful	15	79
Not very useful	0	0
Not at all useful	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	19	100

Base (all respondents in South East): 19

Respondents were asked to identify which communication routes they normally used to receive information and which they found useful. The highest number of respondents received information through LGA website and bulletins from the professional associations (both 79 per cent / 15 councils. The highest number of respondents found the Department of Health website useful (79 per cent / 15 councils).

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 bulletins	15	79	13	68
Bulletins from the professional associations	15	79	10	53
LGA website	14	74	10	53
Department of Health website	14	74	15	79
Regional oversight groups	10	53	7	37
None of the above	1	5	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.

The ROG highlighted that councils across the region would benefit from additional support in the following areas:

- Commissioning support including sharing of contract specifications, Key Performance Indicators and sharing good practice, particularly on; putting plans in place for a minimum standardised data collection and reporting requirements.
- Clarification around future budgets, cross charging arrangements and the impact of population growth, particularly in relation to cross-boundary issues. Guidance and information sharing around good practice is needed, especially on issues relating to finances and safeguarding.
- More information about the evidence base around best practice.
- Clarity about the future arrangements for CHIS.
- Support for Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) to understand their new responsibilities resulting from the 0-5 public health transfer.

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