

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

Results tables for West Midlands

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 West Midlands and includes additional commentary from the Regional Oversight Group.

Results tables for West Midlands

The Regional Oversight Group (ROG) highlighted that the general picture was a positive one. Where issues were identified PHE was already aware of these and actively working on solutions in partnership with NHS England, Directors of Public Health and local transition leads. The results showed that in a few areas there are ongoing discussions around the level of funding allocations, associated costs or the level of need relative to funding for the area. Clarity about these issues is being sought and discussions are taking place locally.

Respondents were asked how confident they were that the arrangements for managing the transition in their locality were clear and achievable. All but one of the 14 councils were either very or fairly confident that this was the case.

There was only one council who reported not feeling confident about their plans to manage the transfer because of the reduction in support from NHS England following its restructure and because of ongoing issues relating to finances and contracting. In response PHE has discussed what further support is needed by the council and NHS England and discussions about finance and contracts are continuing locally.

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	13	93
Very confident	8	57
Fairly confident	5	36
Not very confident	1	7
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

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. Seventy one per cent (10 councils) were working to a great or moderate extent with NHS England and 71 per cent (10 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

	a) NHS England		b) Your provider(s)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
To a great or moderate extent	10	71	10	71
To a great extent	4	29	4	29
To a moderate extent	0	0	0	0
To a small extent	0	0	0	0
Not at all	0	0	0	0
Don't know	14	100	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

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. Seventy one per cent (10 councils) were working to a great or moderate extent with NHS England and 71 per cent (10 councils) were working to a great or moderate extent with providers.

The ROG highlighted that the recent restructure and subsequent loss of key NHS England staff during the transition phase poses a risk to delivering a robust handover. NHS England posts are now covering a larger geographical footprint and some councils have received a reduced amount of commissioning support as a result. Due diligence and legacy was seen as a particular concern for some localities. As a result Public Health England is working with NHS England and local transition leads in councils to ensure there is a good handover arrangement in place.

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
To a great or moderate extent	10	71	10	71
To a great extent	1	7	0	0
To a moderate extent	9	64	10	71
To a small extent	2	14	3	21
Not at all	2	14	1	7
Don't know	0	0	0	0

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

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	14	100
Very confident	5	36
Fairly confident	9	64
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

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	14	100
Very confident	11	79
Fairly confident	3	21
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

Respondents were asked if they had a **funding** agreement in place with their neighbouring local authority(ies) which covers their resident population who are registered out of area. All but one council (13 councils) said they did not have a funding agreement in place, but six of these said that this was in progress.

This was recognised as a longstanding national issue. Locally, PHE and NHS England are working to clarify the situation and the region's NHS England oversight group has set up a dedicated task and finish group to develop an action plan for the resident and registered issue. This includes mapping who is doing what and where in the country and learning from this and developing a set of principles and options with associated risks. Alongside this NHS England has mapped the number of children who would be affected and has identified the issues relating to providers. The ROG highlighted that there is significant misunderstanding of this issue across the NHS system both with providers and wider commissioners and the issue needs national attention.

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	7%
No – but this is in progress	6	43%
No – this is not currently in progress	6	43%
Don't know	1	7%
Total	14	100%

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

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. None of the 14 councils had a performance monitoring agreement in place, but four said 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	0	0
No – but this is in progress	4	29
No – this is not currently in progress	9	64
Don't know	1	7
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

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	14	100
Very confident	8	57
Fairly confident	6	43
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands):14

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	14	100
Very confident	10	71
Fairly confident	4	29
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

Respondents were asked if their Health and Wellbeing board had discussed the transfer. A majority (eight councils) had discussed the transfer with their board, and all but one of those who had not done this (five councils) said this was scheduled for a future meeting.

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

	Number	Per cent
Yes	8	57
No – but this is scheduled for a future meeting	5	36
No – this discussion is not currently scheduled	1	7
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

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 Public Health and the Director of Children's Services.

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 public health	14	100
Director of children's services	14	100
Portfolio holder for health	12	86
Lead member children's services	11	79
Relevant scrutiny chair	7	50
Health and wellbeing board	5	36
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. All 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	14	100
To a great extent	10	71
To a moderate extent	4	29
To a small extent	0	0
Not at all	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

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 (64 per cent / nine 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	9	64
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)	5	36
Not applicable	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands):14

Respondents were asked if any of the NHS England contracts that required transferring to their council ran beyond 30 September 2015. Fifty-seven per cent (eight councils) said that contracts ran 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	8	57
No	6	43
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100 ¹

Base: (all respondents in West Midlands):14

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. Of those respondents, 88 per cent (seven councils) said that they intended to accept novation.

¹ Whilst the individual answer options displayed in Table 1 appear to sum to 101 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.

The ROG highlighted that PHE and NHS England are in discussion with the council who said they do not intend 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	7	88
No, we don't intend to accept novation	1	13
Don't know	0	0
Total	8	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands who had contracts that ran beyond 30 September 2015):

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 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	14	100
No – but plans for this are being developed	0	0
No- plans for this have not yet been developed	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands: 14

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. Eighty six per cent of respondents (12 councils) said that they had put plans in place for minimum standardised data collection and the remaining two councils said that plans were in development. All but one of the 14 councils had put plans in place for reporting requirements that support the effective commissioning of children's 0-5 years public health services and the remaining council said that plans were in development.

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	12	86	13	93
No – but plans are in development	2	14	1	7
No – plans for this have not yet been developed	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0
Total	14	100	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

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 four per cent (nine councils) were 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. Forty three per cent (six councils) were fairly confident that the provider(s) are taking steps to achieve compliance.

A number of local issues were reported by councils with concerns over data collection and data quality. In response PHE and NHS England are encouraging local areas to pay rigorous attention to achieving KPIs and maintaining open communications with existing providers to address concerns and risks at an early stage.

PHE and NHS England are working with local colleagues to manage the data, information and supporting IT aspects of the transfer. Ensuring local areas continue to have access to relevant information and data is a priority for the region. One local authority in particular reported they had agreed KPIs and plans for a minimum standardised data collection and the ROG suggested that this may be worth sharing more widely.

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
Very or fairly confident	9	64	6	43
Very confident	0	0	0	0
Fairly confident	9	64	6	43
Not very confident	2	14	2	14
Not at all confident	1	7	1	7
Don't know	2	14	5	36
Total	14	100	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands): 14

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 councils were 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	14	100
Very confident	11	79
Fairly confident	3	21
Not very confident	0	0
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents West Midlands): 14

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. All but one of the 14 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	13	93
Very confident	4	29
Fairly confident	9	64
Not very confident	1	7
Not at all confident	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents West Midlands): 14

Respondents were asked how they would rate the usefulness of the information that they have received about the transfer. All but one respondent (13 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	13	93
Very useful	2	14
Fairly useful	11	79
Not very useful	1	7
Not at all useful	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	14	100

Base (all respondents in West Midlands):14

Respondents were asked to identify which communication routes they normally used to receive information and which they found useful. The highest number of respondents 93 per cent (13 councils) received information through the Department of Health website and 79 per cent (10 councils) used LGA bulletins and regional oversight groups. Seventy-one per cent (10 councils) found LGA bulletins, regional oversight groups and the Department of Health website the most useful.

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
Department of Health website	13	93	10	71
LGA bulletins	11	79	10	71
Regional oversight groups	11	79	10	71
Bulletins from the professional associations	9	64	7	50
LGA website	7	50	7	50
None of the above	0	0	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.

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