

## Vision for a new public health system

The government has this week set out its vision and strategy for a future public health system with the publication of *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and Way Forward*.

The changes proposed in *Healthy Lives, Healthy People* are a response to the challenges faced by the public's health. The new Public Health Service will tackle the inequalities that exist in health today, and help people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives.

This challenge requires a new approach. Communities will play a key role in the new system, which will have a clear focus on prevention and reducing inequalities and will work across government to address the wider social determinants of health.

The publication sets out progress in developing the new public health system, including:

- Clarifying the new leadership role for local authorities and their directors of public health, across health improvement, health protection and population health advice to the NHS
- Proposals for commissioning public health services
- Establishing a new integrated public health service, Public Health England, to drive improvements in health and protect against health threats
- Public Health England will be an executive agency of the Department of Health, to provide greater operational independence within a structure that is clearly accountable to the Health Secretary; and
- Clear principles for emergency preparedness, resilience and response.

Public Health England will now take up full responsibilities by April 2013. It will be an executive agency of the Department of Health and will integrate the three pillars of public health; health protection; health improvement and health services. The full report can be downloaded here: [Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and Way Forward](#)

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## Developing the NHS Commissioning Board

Initial thinking on the design of the new NHS Commissioning Board has now been published with the launch of 'Developing the NHS Commissioning Board'.

The document aims to give a sense of direction to stakeholders, partners, pathfinders and staff who may potentially work for the Board.

The proposals remain subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, but the publication of this document will allow the design principles to be challenged and tested through co-production. This will provide a good basis for the members of the Board, once appointed, to develop the organisation.

Many features of the proposed commissioning system are new, but there is also important continuity with the current system. The vision for improving outcomes builds on the improvements the NHS has made in areas such as reducing waiting times, tackling infections and reducing mortality. And it also builds on the vision for systematically improving the quality of care set out in 'High Quality Care for All'.

Full details can be found at

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_128118](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_128118)

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## SHA Clustering – NHS Management Board Decisions

Sir David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive, has written to all SHA Chief Executives setting out the arrangements for clustering the SHAs, as was announced in the government's response to the NHS Future Forum report.

His letter and briefing note can be downloaded here:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_128351](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_128351)