

Public Health Committee Discussion Paper

Title: Director's Update

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Introduction

Since the last Public Health Committee, there are a number of new developments to share with committee members for update on progress, information and comment.

1. Visit from DFID Health Adviser

A new DFID Health Advisor has now been appointed – Karen Zamboni. Karen will be visiting the island between 15-22 September 2018. The ToR for the visit shared with the Chief Secretary and the Governor's Office is as below:

Reason for travel:

The last health adviser mission to St Helena took place in Nov 2016. Since then, several important changes have occurred.

- 1) A new Health Adviser started in Overseas Territory Department in April 2018.
- 2) The current Director of Health started in St Helena in April 2017.
- 3) A strategic plan for the Health Directorate 2018 – 2021 is now in place.
- 4) A Health Promotion Strategic Framework was adopted, key TC positions in primary health care and prevention have been filled, and SHG has intensified work on the prevention and management of chronic long-term conditions, particularly diabetes and hypertension, as well as smoking cessation. It also launched the Saints Together social marketing campaign.
- 5) The Directorate has strengthened diagnostic capacity on island to aid prioritisation of overseas referrals, and is exploring moving referrals from Cape Town to Johannesburg in a bid to increase cost effectiveness.
- 6) A new health information system is being installed.
- 7) Clinical governance processes are being strengthened, including through the introduction of a system of critical incident monitoring and response.

Aim and objectives of trip:

This is the first visit by the new DfID Health Advisor to St Helena. The key aims are:

- 1) To build relationships with key stakeholders in the Health sector in St Helena (see list of stakeholders to meet)
- 2) To work with SHG to prepare for the new Financial Aid programme 2019 – 2022

Specific objectives:

1. To familiarise DfID HA with health service provision on island, including taking stock of team composition, level and type of services provided at primary and secondary care, capacity

constraints and challenges.

Key focus areas under this objective will be:

- Primary care
 - Health prevention services including multi-sectorial interventions
 - Secondary care on island, including hospital capacity issues and social admissions
 - Referral system for overseas care, including review of third party administrator arrangements and discussion on strategies to ensure cost-effectiveness.
 - Medivacs
 - Mental health services
 - Elderly care
 - Health data monitoring and analysis
2. To identify synergies with Public Health England support on mental health and obesity prevention and management.
 3. To review implementation of the 2018-2021 Health Directorate strategic plan and discuss health sector strategic priorities and milestones 2019 – 2021.

Key focus areas for discussions under this objective are the 6 current health strategic priorities, namely:

- Expanding the range and access to preventive services
 - Maintain access to health services on island
 - Maintain sustainable access to overseas and tertiary healthcare services
 - Effective clinical care and self-management of long term conditions
 - Health workforce needs and development
 - Ensuring quality of care.
4. To begin discussion on budget implications for the emerging 3- year priorities.
- Specific focus:
- Overview of health budget for current and previous years
 - Health strategy costing and identified pressures on health budget and potential trade-offs.
5. To identify FA logframe indicators for the new programme, and begin reviewing data to establish a baseline and identify 3-year milestones alongside the KPIs established for the health service.

The DfID Health Adviser will seek opportunity to meet the committee during her visit. Committee may consider holding a special meeting for this purpose.

2. Update on overseas medical referral destination

Following the PHC decision at the last committee meeting, arrangements are now underway with MSO to finalise necessary arrangements as quickly as practicable. Further updates on progress will be communicated once timeline for commencement has been established.

3. Budget update

For the first and most of the second quarter of this fiscal year 2017/18, we have operated on the basis of a rollover budget from last year. Operationally, this means that we are now reviewing expenditure to date and making expenditure plans for the second half of the year. There are currently no indications of undue budget pressures in the different areas because of the restricted spending in the first half of the year. The committee will receive a full budget update at the next meeting and is asked to consider key lines of enquiry at this meeting in order to ensure that the next budget meets the committee's needs and expectations.

4. Staff movement and Recruitment update

A few candidates that we offered post to and accepted have now withdrawn. These were mainly due to family reasons. Nevertheless, it is of concern that candidates withdraw after 2-3 months of the recruitment process. We now have to re-commence recruitment for the following posts where the candidates have withdrawn late in the process: GP, Mental Health Nurse, Oncology Nurse and Dental Officer. On the other hand, we have successfully recruited into the Theatre Nurse Post, Radiographer, Clinical Psychologist and Community Nurse Specialist for Chronic Disease Management. We are working with HR colleagues and the London Office to review factors leading to successful recruitment rather than aborted ones. In the next quarter, work will commence to fill all posts in the community nursing service with emphasis on strengthening chronic disease management and disease prevention service.

5. EMIS Replacement Update (PatientSource)

Work is progressing apace regarding the installation and deployment of the new clinical information system. A technical expert from PatientSource arrived on the island on the 23rd of August and departed on the 1st of September having worked with the IT and Health teams to specify needs, agree options and create modules for the different service areas. Work is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year for the new system to be tested. Active and full deployment is expected in the first quarter of next year in time for the new fiscal year.

The committee is asked to:

- Note the upcoming DfID Health Adviser visit and agree on plans to meet;
- Note update on budget and agree any key lines of enquiry for the upcoming budget report;
- Note the update on various other matters, discuss and make relevant recommendations.