

What is public health?

Public health looks to improve the health of the population, rather than treating the diseases of individual patients. Day-to-day we concentrate on:

- finding out what people's health needs are,
- creating policies and environments and services which promote health and wellbeing,
- ensuring everything we do is based on the best available evidence.

Who are we?

We have a group of 24 staff based in our offices in Truro, St Austell and Saltash. They lead on policy, commissioning and partnerships around key areas of public health like healthy weight, sexual health, drug and alcohol services and tackling major causes of death and illness like heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

Our Health Promotion Service has about 70 full-time equivalent staff and is based in Pool. They provide a range of specialist advice and services and work directly with the public or local organisations to improve health and wellbeing. Some of their key programmes include Healthy Schools, Healthy Workplaces the Stop Smoking Service and sexual health. You can read more about their work by visiting their website: www.healthpromcornwall.org

What key areas do we work on?

Public health in each local authority has a number of set responsibilities. Some are prescribed functions which have to be delivered in a certain way like the NHS Health Check, some sexual health services and the National Child Measurement Programme. Others are non-prescribed so must still be delivered but there is more flexibility on how such as the stop smoking service, healthy weight programmes, drug and alcohol treatment and creating healthier workplaces.

We have an important role in supporting the delivery and ongoing development of the Cornwall Health and Wellbeing Strategy and showing progress against the national Public Health Outcomes Framework. We also provide public health advice to and work with NHS Kernow to ensure health services are effective. This means both meeting the needs and improving the health and wellbeing of the local population.

Budget

We are supported by a ring-fenced budget provided by the Department of Health. In 2013/14 our allocation is £19.7 million rising to just over £20 million in 2014/15. Arrangements from 2015 onwards are not yet agreed.

How we can help

For more information please contact the Public Health desk on phdesk@cornwall.gov.uk or call on 01726 627802..