

**Cambridgeshire Public Health Reference Group (PHRG)**

**Terms of Reference**

**1. Purpose**

The purpose of the Cambridgeshire Public Health Reference Group (PHRG) is to provide whole system leadership and multi-agency co-ordination for public health initiatives in Cambridgeshire (*and Peterborough*) focussed on improving outcomes for residents and reducing health inequalities. The PHRG will be intelligence led - using evidence where available and gathering evidence where it does not exist, and will make best use of aligned or pooled resources while minimising duplication. It will endeavour to support local authority public health colleagues in providing the best available evidence and advice to a range of strategic Partnerships and Boards in Cambridgeshire (*and Peterborough*).

**2. Principles**

The PHRG will work to the six principles of the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- Reducing inequalities by improving the health of the worst off fastest
- Focus on preventing ill health by promoting healthy lifestyles while respecting people's choices and for those who have an illness, preventing their condition from worsening
- Make decisions which are based on the best possible evidence
- Develop solutions which are cost effective and efficient
- Recognise that different groups and communities have different needs
- Encourage communities to take responsibility for making healthy choices
- Make sure services are sustainable

**3. Objectives**

- i) Share information from a range of organisations on our public health priorities and initiatives, including real-time intelligence and lived experience, to build mutual understanding and work together effectively.
- ii) Act as a reference group supporting local authority colleagues in providing public health advice to strategic decision makers – this may include support for the Health and Wellbeing Board and associated partnerships, the Executive Board (vulnerable adults), Cambridgeshire Public Service Board, and NHS System Transformation Board.
- iii) Access expertise from Public Health England and academic bodies, while helping them to understand more about 'real' current issues for local people and services, and explore the potential to act a local pilot/research site for PHE/University/EU priorities and to bring in grant funding
- iv) Identify how to deliver joint public health services and innovative approaches across organisations, through alignment of budgets, commissioning and pathways; in particular taking forward priorities three, five and six of the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy:
  - Priority 3: Encourage healthy lifestyles and behaviours in all actions and activities while respecting people's personal choices.

- Priority 5: Create a sustainable environment in which communities can flourish
- Priority 6: Work together effectively

#### **4. Remit and Authority**

- i) The PHRG is a reference group and co-ordinating body – individual organisations will remain accountable for the public health functions they provide and the quality of the public health advice and evidence which they offer.
- ii) The PHRG will encourage and facilitate creation of joint commissioning and other arrangements between its constituent members where appropriate.

#### **5. Frequency, Structure and Administration**

The PHRG will meet quarterly, but may establish task groups which meet more frequently. Administration will be provided by the County Council public health directorate.

#### **6. Membership**

The membership is intended to be at senior (director) level and representatives will be invited from the following organisations:

##### **Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health**

(direct link to HWB Board and County Council Health Committee)

Director of Public health

Consultant in Public Health: Health Improvement

##### ***Peterborough City Council Public Health***

*Director of Public Health*

*To be confirmed*

##### **Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group**

(direct link to System Transformation Board)

Chief Strategy Officer or Director of Transformation

##### **District Councils**

(direct links to local health partnerships)

Cambs City Council

South Cambs District Council

Fenland District Council

Huntingdon District Council

East Cambs District Council

##### **NHS England**

Head of public health commissioning

##### **Public Health England**

(direct link to PHE support networks and resources)

Public Health England Centre Director or local representative

**Cambridge Institute of Public Health**  
(direct link to academic knowledge base)  
Director, Cambridge Institute of Public Health  
Programme Leader MRC Epidemiology Unit

**HealthWatch**  
Chief Executive

**Voluntary sector**  
CE – Hunts District Forum, representing Cambs & Peterborough CVS

**Criminal Justice**  
CE – Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioners Office

**Membership welcome from**

**Cambridgeshire County Council Directorates**  
Children Families and Adults (potentially linking to Executive Board)  
Economy Transport and Environment  
Customer Services and Transformation

**NHS Provider representative(s)**  
CUHFT represented at scoping meeting

**7. Chair**

It is proposed that the PHRG would be jointly chaired by the Director of Public Health, who links directly to the HWB Board and by a public sector CE who links directly into CPSB.

**8. Quorum**

To be confirmed

**9. Reporting Arrangements**

The Public Health Reference Group will be accountable to its constituent members and to the Health and Wellbeing Board(s) and will provide an Annual Report of its activities to the Health and Wellbeing Board(s) and to other Boards/Partnerships on request.

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**Review Date:**  
TBC