



# Faculty of Public Health

Of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom

Working to improve the public's health

## Faculty of Public Health Autumn 2017 Budget Representation

### About the Faculty of Public Health

1. FPH is a membership organisation for 4,000 public health professionals across the UK and world, and is a registered UK charity. Our role is to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities and national populations. We support the training of public health professionals and are a place for our members to innovate and share best practice. We encourage new research and champion excellence. We seek to improve public health policy and practice at local, national and international level by campaigning for change and working in partnership with local and national governments.

### Introduction

2. FPH welcomes the opportunity to submit this Budget Representation. We are encouraged by the Chancellor's intention to 'keep the economy strong, resilient and fair' so that it 'works for everyone', and are **committed to supporting the Government in ensuring that our local communities and workforce have the best opportunity to enable the UK to thrive in a competitive global market post-Brexit.**
3. This budget is critical. **Enormous uncertainties associated with Brexit**, e.g. what replaces EU rules in terms of trade, investment and migration, and the impacts of regulatory and policy change on population health and health inequalities, **are set against further local authority efficiency savings and cuts to key public health services.** FPH has prioritised investment in public health and achieving a 'healthy' Brexit as our two key areas of focus. They are an essential part of ensuring economic productivity, and we urge the Government accord both a high priority in this budget. **FPH calls on the Government to:**
  - a) Provide assurances that there will be no more in-year cuts to the public health budget
  - b) Increase investment in prevention and population health services in Local Authorities and the NHS
  - c) Maintain access to EU research programmes, collaborations and networks (e.g. Horizon 2020)
  - d) Maintain (and fund) access to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and health promotion and disease prevention programmes
  - e) Maintain (and fund) continued access to the EU's health programme
  - f) Commit that the Shared Prosperity Fund matches EU regional funding for at least the next decade
  - g) Place health and the reduction of inequalities at the heart of trade negotiations

### Investment in Prevention

4. In 2017/18, Councils will spend £2.52bn on public health services compared to £2.60bn in 2016/17. Reductions over the next year include £30m on sexual health, £22m on tackling drug misuse in adults and £16m on smoking cessation. This follows public health cuts of £600m by 2020/21, on top of £200m from the 2015/16 budget. Yet, **effectively addressing** the Chancellor's concern at the "**inexorable pressure of an ageing population**" makes **achieving a radical upgrade in prevention an urgent imperative.**
5. The Secretary of State for Health has stressed that alongside NHS England's *Five Year Forward View*, a "vision" is needed, "encompassing the move to prevention, not cure, *with a much bigger focus on public health.*" That vision is critical to the future sustainability of the NHS. **It is both a false distinction and a false economy to consider NHS and public health funding as separate.** The Five Year Forward View cannot be delivered without this focus and investment in prevention.
6. Public Health England has advised the Government that "it will be neither effective nor feasible to attempt to solve an epidemic of largely preventable long-term diseases by ramping up spending on hospitals, clinicians and services." **The overwhelming evidence for the value for money and cost-effectiveness of public health is well established.** Investment in public health represents a long-term investment in an economically sustainable future.
7. The Chancellor has made driving productivity a national priority. **A commitment to public health will**

support that effort, alongside the Chancellor's ambition of addressing regional disparities, e.g. in health and wellbeing, education and skills and in a healthy and productive workforce. **Investment will significantly improve the health and wellbeing of local populations** and reduce inequalities across the life course, **giving the UK the best opportunity to be 'match-fit' for Brexit**. Continued reductions in funding will increase the burden of preventable, non-communicable disease, and pressure on the NHS, which spends 70% of its budget managing long-term conditions, e.g. diabetes.

### Recommendations

- I. **Increase investment in prevention and population health services in Local Authorities and the NHS.** We note that the LGA calls for an additional £2bn annually during this Parliament to enable the running of current services alongside the service transformation required to meet the challenges of the future.
- II. **Provide assurances that there will be no more in-year cuts to the public health budget and reverse the planned cuts to the public health grant**

### Getting 'Match-fit' for Brexit

8. Getting 'match-fit' for Brexit means building on the health, social, environmental and consumer protections, collaborations and networks developed through the EU and from which we have benefited. We can **build a health-creating society supported by all sectors of the economy and wider population**. We can accelerate and fund health system transformation from a hospital to a person-centred system. We can build a health improving national food, obesity, tobacco and alcohol policy. **Through this, the UK can ensure a healthy population and productive workforce to compete on the global stage.**
9. **We welcome the Government's recognition of the common fundamental challenges** shared by the UK and EU, e.g. **climate change, infectious diseases**, maintaining growth and security in the face of **threats and natural hazards**, and supporting countries to build societal and economic resilience. The UK is a global centre of research excellence. **We urge the Government to fund continued access to EU research programmes** (e.g. Horizon 2020) and strengthen bilateral and multilateral research relationships.
10. **A broad range of vital collaborative initiatives** flow from the EU's direct competence in public health, in both policy and legislation. **The EU's Health Programme plays an important role in preventing diseases, promoting healthy lifestyles, combatting cross-border health threats**, ensuring innovative, efficient, sustainable and accessible healthcare and in fostering cooperation on these issues at European level. **We urge the Government to maintain continued access to the EU's health programme.**
11. Technical expertise is also provided by agencies such as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Food Safety Authority. **We urge the Government to maintain (and fund) access to the ECDC to ensure future coordination in dealing with serious cross-border health threats**, and more broadly to **continue to fund health promotion and disease prevention programmes.**
12. **We welcome the Government's commitment to use EU structural funding coming back to the UK following Brexit to create a UK Shared Prosperity Fund, designed to reduce inequalities between communities across the UK.** This funding has the potential to help deliver sustainable, inclusive growth. **FPH urges the Government to commit that the Fund matches EU regional funding for at least the next decade** – vital to local job creation and boosting economic growth and social cohesion.
13. **Finally, we urge the Government to promote sustainable, efficient and equitable growth by placing health and the reduction of inequalities at the heart of our economic strategy and trade negotiations.** We further urge the Government to ensure that fair, healthy, humane and environmentally sustainable food, farming, fishing and land management are central to the economic plan for the UK.

### Recommendations

- a) **Maintain access to EU research programmes, collaborations and networks (e.g. Horizon 2020)**
- b) **Maintain (and fund) access to the ECDC and health promotion and disease prevention programmes**
- c) **Maintain (and fund) continued access to the EU's health programme**
- d) **Commit that the Shared Prosperity Fund matches EU regional funding for at least the next decade**
- e) **Place health and the reduction of inequalities at the heart of trade negotiations**