



Public Health  
England



Duncan Selbie  
Chief Executive

## Friday message

Friday 20 September 2013

### Dear everyone

The Commonwealth embraces 54 nations and a third of the world's population in every conceivable geographic and economic circumstance. At the invitation of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Kamallesh Sharma, PHE will be contributing to the creation of a Commonwealth health hub. This is part of the Commonwealth Connects programme, which provides a secure digital platform for information exchange between Commonwealth nations. The ambition is to create the largest healthcare community in the world by providing online access to healthcare professionals working in all disciplines, creating a range of expert networks that enable institutes, practitioners and policymakers to work together to improve health and healthcare. We will say more as this develops.

We also had a really positive discussion with the senior leadership team of DH this week, focusing on how we can improve health and wellbeing and address inequalities in England. This builds on the initial ideas we set out in [Our Priorities](#) on where we should be focusing our efforts locally and nationally, and we will be developing this further with everyone over the autumn.

There is much talk of leadership and an obvious danger that the term could lose value by its overuse. However our work, particularly with local government, repeatedly shows its importance in delivering real improvements for people in their communities. The work with all stakeholders on developing an innovative systems leadership model is refreshing all our ideas and models of leadership. We are heavily engaged in gathering the practical know-how of what works, and importantly what doesn't, in leading within and across systems comprising many players. We know from the work creating the new public health system that the principles of co-design and transparency remain paramount. As well as finding out what works, we are also in the business of developing the next generation of leaders. That is why I am delighted PHE is playing its full part in supporting both the Leading for Change programme, which is for directors of adult social care, children's services, public health and CCG leaders and which starts in November, and the upcoming development offer from the Leadership Centre, which is for all public health professionals working in local government.

My thanks to Judy Robinson, Chief Executive of Involve Yorkshire & Humber, for the opportunity to attend their annual policy conference in Wakefield, where the two themes were mental health care and ageing. Involve Yorkshire & Humber brings together 15,000 voluntary and community sector organisations across the North and identifies opportunities for action and improved partnership working both among themselves and with the statutory agencies. And thank you too for the Yorkshire teabags and biscuits for my journey home!

And finally Monday saw the launch of our [blog](#), Public Health Matters. There will be regular contributions from PHE's leaders, staff and expert advisers on topics hopefully of interest to local government and the wider public health community.

With best wishes