

COP/07/12**Policy & Scrutiny Committee** Community and Older People**Date** 9 February 2012

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Essex Public Health Transition**Purpose of Report**

To update the committee on the plans in place for transition of Public Health Responsibilities to the County Council from PCTs, which are due to be in place by April of 2013.

General Background

The Health and Social Care Bill, currently making its way through parliament, proposes substantial changes to Health and Social Care. One significant aspect of the bill is the transfer of Public Health responsibilities to Local Authorities.

Within Essex County Council work is occurring to implement the Council's new responsibilities identified within the Bill as part of the Strengthening Commission with Health programme. In relation to the Public Health transition we are aiming to have co-location of the public health staff in April 2012. Alongside this we are working with partners to develop a holistic vision for public health and mapping public health functions across the Council and partners to inform the design for April 2013. We are currently awaiting the announcement of shadow public health budgets which were due to be announced in December 2011 but were delayed until the new year.

The Strategic Health Authority requires PCTs to submit public health transition plans by the end of March 2012. On subsequent pages is the Essex plan which describes the preparation and progress underway in Essex as well as describing the local context and some of the key issues that need to be addressed. Included as part of the draft Transition Plan is the draft vision for Public Health which articulates the key priorities and principles for public health as well as the challenges faced by the county.