

Briefing Paper

Emergency Planning Shared Service Joint Committee – Rotherham and Sheffield

2pm, 6 December 2012

Rotherham Town Hall

Purpose of paper: Item 8

To update Members of the current position in respect of the transfer of Public Health functions to Local Government and the relevant emergency planning issues.

Background information:

Members will be aware that under changes to the NHS, Public Health Teams are transferring into Local Authorities in April 2013. Senior officers within the EPSS have been meeting with both Rotherham and Sheffield Directors of Public Health and with representatives from the wider NHS.

Key issues:

EPSS management recognised early on that the transfer was likely to have an impact on the workload of the team. After initial meetings, Rotherham's Public Health Team and NHS Sheffield submitted documents to the EPSS on the likely impact of the transition to the Shared Service. From these documents the EPSS calculated the estimated financial cost of the additional work on the team, which is currently the subject of discussion with John Radford, Director of Public Health for Rotherham and Jeremy Wight, Director of Public Health for Sheffield. The amount to be transferred from both Directors is relatively small and it is not anticipated that it will prove problematical. However, the figures were provided with the following caveats:

- i. they do not allow for any other unforeseen health related emergency planning work that may arise following the transition, and
- ii. the costs associated with updating the Pandemic Influenza Plan are based on the EPSS updating their two existing Corporate Plans and not writing or updating a wider Health Pandemic Influenza Plan.

Conclusion:

On the information currently available it is envisaged that the transfer of some Public Health emergency responsibilities to the councils (to be managed by the EPSS) is not a major issue. However, the EPSS awaits the formal approval from both Directors of Public Health on the financial proposals.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.