

# **Public Health in Kent County Council**

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# A (very)Brief History

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- There has been an Association for Directors of Public Health, or an equivalent, for more than 160 years
- Chadwick and Poor Law reforms – 1842
- Public Health Act 1848 followed huge cholera outbreaks
  - First time Government had legislated on health
  - Local Authorities – Officer of Health to improve sanitation
- Further Cholera outbreaks and the ‘Great Stink’
- But by 1872 there were only 50 councils that had a Medical Officer of Health (expense of infrastructure projects)

# A (very)Brief History - cont

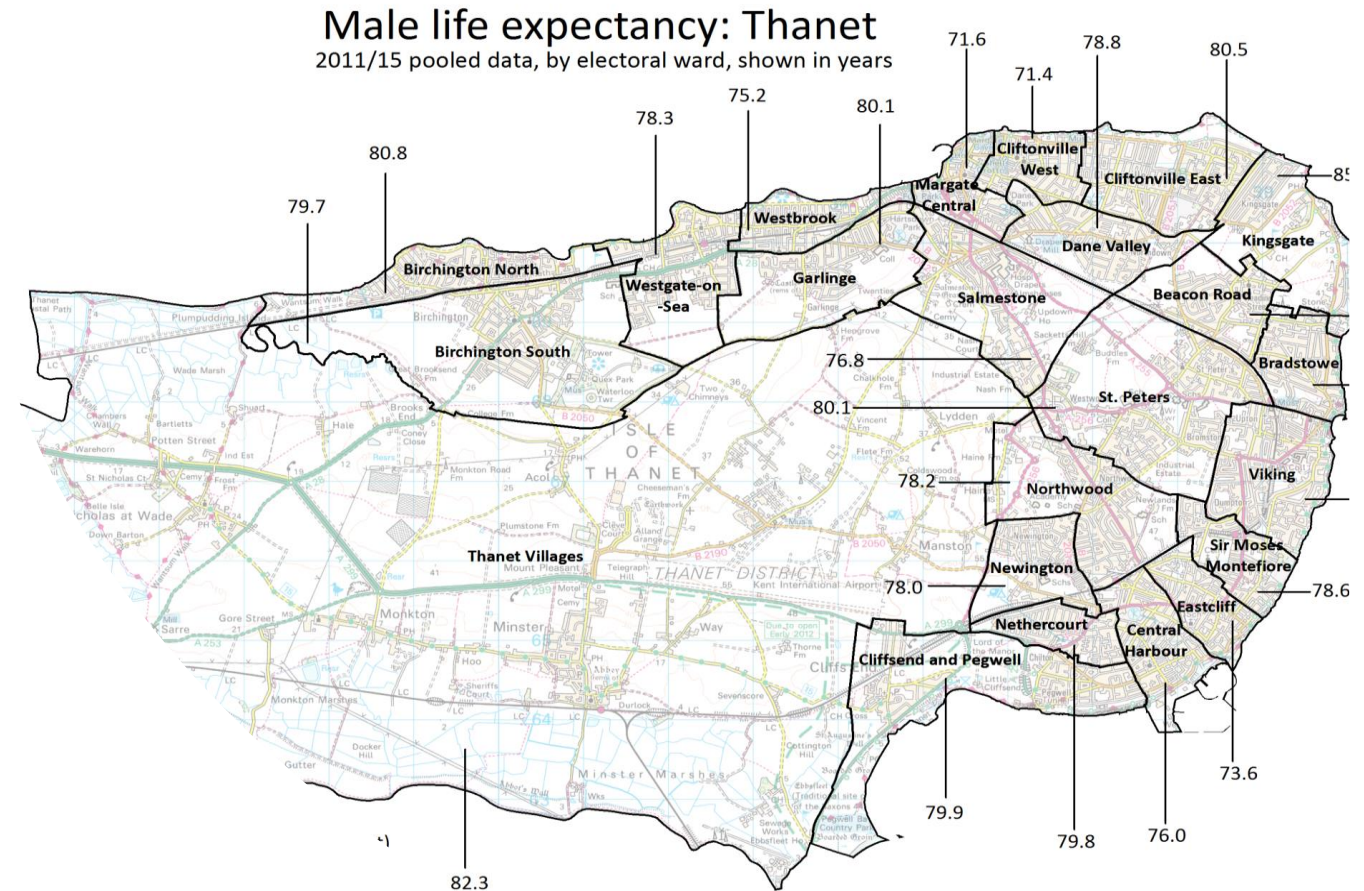
- 1875 Public Health Act
  - Forces councils to carry out improvements including clean water, drainage and sewage systems and the appointment of a MoH for each area
- Local Government Act 1929
  - MoHs were important and influential in the establishment of municipal hospitals (precursor to the NHS)
- 1974 – Public Health moved to Community Medicine in the NHS
- 2013 – Public Health moved back to Local Authority

# Public Health - What We Do

- The Public Health division has three overriding aims, these are:
  - **Improving** the health of the Kent population (healthy diet, smoking cessation)
  - **Protecting** the health of the Kent population (communicable disease, environment)
  - **Improving the quality, effectiveness and access** to, health and social care services
- By achieving these aims we will not only improve the wellbeing of the people of Kent, but also reduce the need for expensive acute interventions, thereby reducing the pressure on other KCC services, and the wider public sector.
- We will also reduce **health inequalities** and assure the system for dealing with outbreaks of communicable disease and environmental hazards.
- We also commission **clinical services** such as health visiting, sexual health and school health.

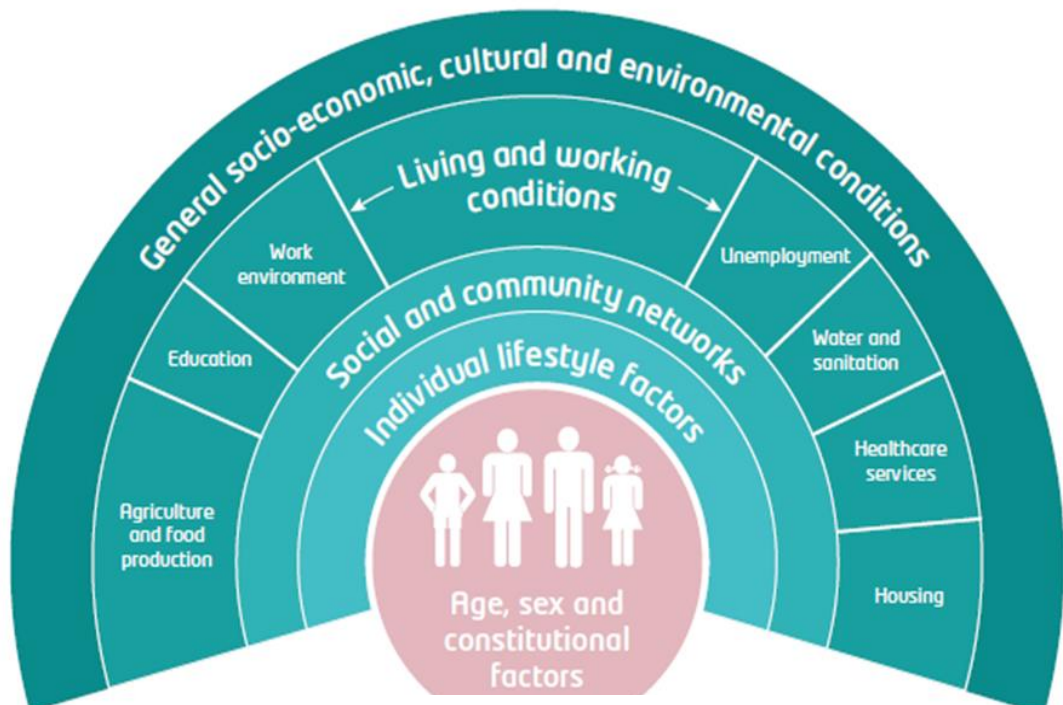
# KCC - A Public Health Authority

- Health and Social Care Act 2012 gave KCC statutory responsibility to take steps to improve the health of the population of Kent and make provision for a number of mandated Public Health programmes
- KCC received a ringfenced grant since 2013 (Currently £69.7m) with conditions and requirements for discharging Public Health responsibilities



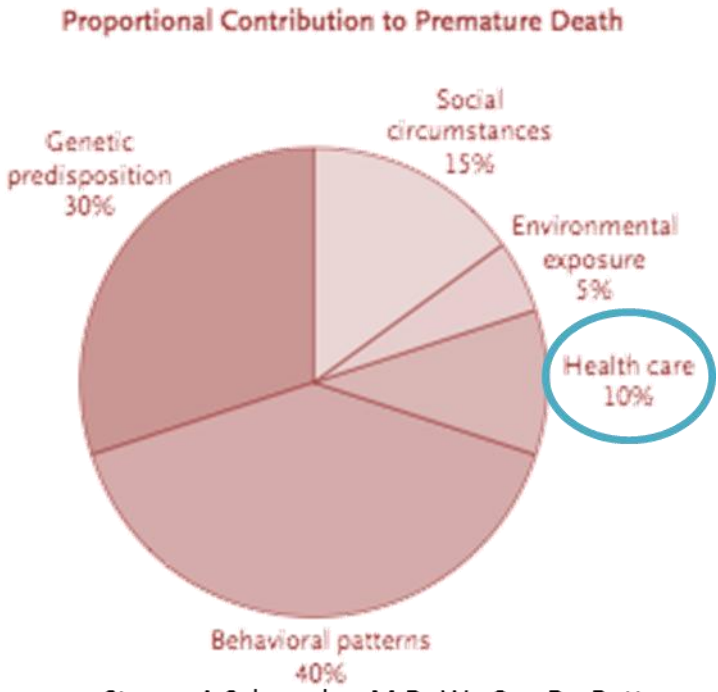
Source: PCMD, ONS, SEPHO, prepared by: KRHO (LLY)

# What is Health? A complete state of physical, mental and social wellbeing



Dahlgren and Whitehead's Social Model of Health (1991)<sup>6</sup>

Sir Michael Marmot review of health inequalities:  
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/gheg/marmotreview>



Steven A.Schroeder, M.D. We Can Do Better  
NEJM 357;12



- DPH is appointed by the Authority and the Secretary of State for Health
- DPH is the champion for health within the local authority, providing leadership and expertise
- DPH works across the Authority, with the NHS, District Councils and other partners such as Police to protect health and improve health and wellbeing
- Takes responsibility for the management of their authority's public health services, with professional responsibility and accountability for their effectiveness, availability and value for money
- Contributes to and influences the work of NHS commissioners, ensuring a whole system approach across the public sector.

# Statutory Duties of the DPH

- To provide an **annual report** on the health of the local population, a **pharmaceutical needs assessment** and a **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** for use by local authority and NHS commissioners
- Responsible for **improving** the health of their local population and **reducing** health inequalities.
- Produce & Exercise the local authority's functions in planning for, and responding to, **emergencies that present a risk to public health**
- Co-operate with the police, the probation service and the prison service to assess the risks posed by violent or sexual offenders
- Any of the Secretary of State's public health protection or health improvement functions that s/he delegates to local authorities



# Public Health Commissioning Responsibilities

## Local Authority Commissioning Responsibilities (1)

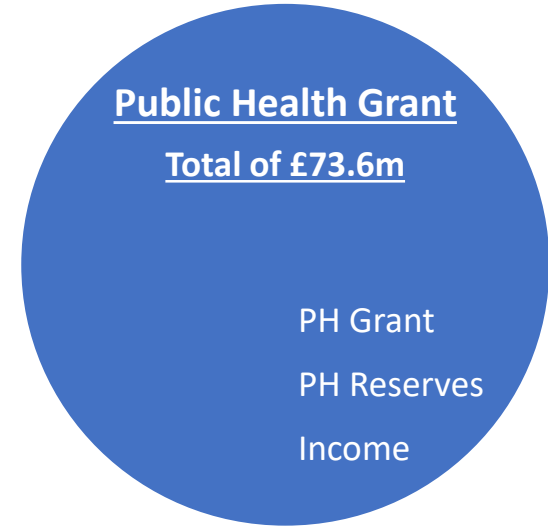


- Tobacco control & smoking cessation
- Alcohol and drug misuse
- Services for children 5-19
- National Child Measurement Programme\*
- Obesity and weight management
- Local nutrition services
- Increasing physical activity

- NHS Health Checks\*
- Public mental health services
- Dental public health services
- Injury prevention
- Birth defect prevention
- Behavioural and lifestyle campaigns to prevent LTCs
- Local initiatives on workplace health

- Support and challenge of NHS services (imms and screening)
- Public health advice to NHS\*
- Sexual health services\*
- Seasonal mortality initiatives
- Local role in health protection incidents\*
- Community safety
- Social exclusion

\* Indicates mandated services

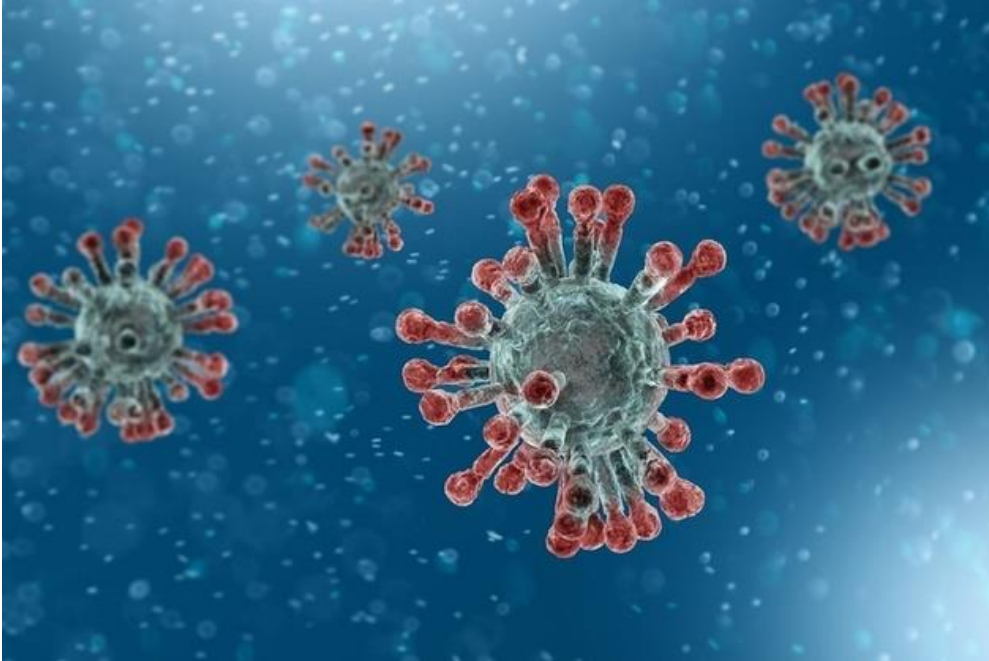
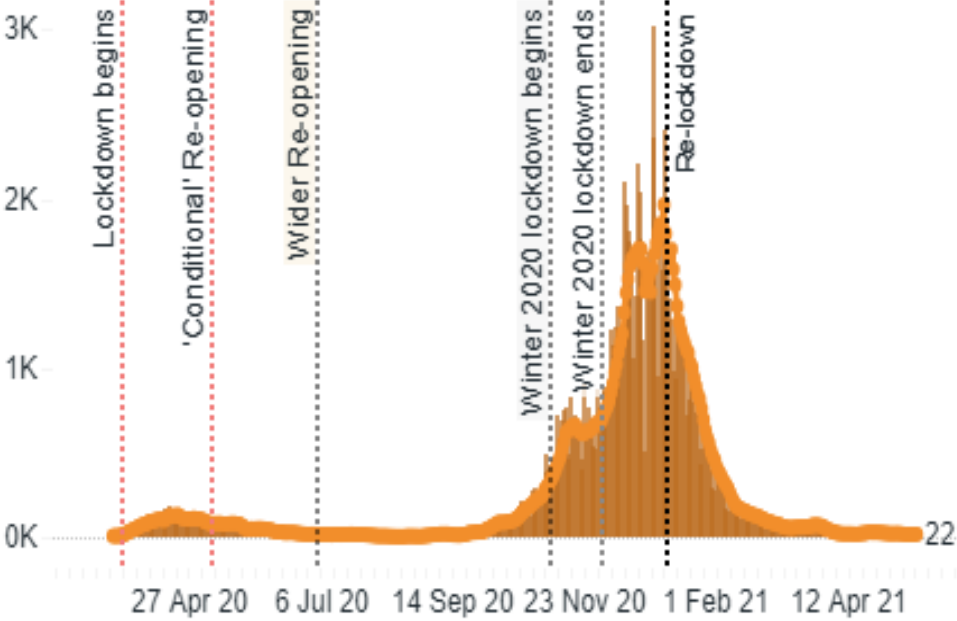


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Health visiting since 2015 – 5 mandated visits\*  
Oral health since 2018 – statutory survey

# COVID-19: Epidemic Curve - Kent

Cases (PHE - Pillars 1 & 2) trend - daily and 7-day moving average



- Ongoing support for COVID-19 vaccination
- Enhancing national delivery of Contact Tracing locally
- EU Exit; Op Fennel
- Delivery of Symptom-free Testing (ATS)
- Enforcement
- Communications
- Education and School testing
- Surge Testing for Variants
- Napier Barracks

