

The Role of the Director of Public Health

Questions put to Meradin Peachey, Director of Public Health for Kent and Dr Mathi Chandrakumar, Clinical Director of Kent Health Protection Unit (HPU).

1. What is the role of Public Health colleagues in dealing with the problem of Healthcare-associated Infections (HAIs)?
2. How is KCC's Department of Public Health collaborating on this issue with Public Health colleagues (in the Primary Care Trusts, the Strategic Health Authority and elsewhere) and local healthcare providers (such as the acute hospital Trusts)?
3. Can you explain the data sources used by Public Health colleagues to monitor local trends in HAIs, including Health Protection Agency (HPA) surveillance data and Office for National Statistics data on deaths?
4. Can you tell the Committee whether local healthcare providers are properly discharging their obligations to supply the HPA with surveillance data on HAIs?
5. Can you tell the Committee whether doctors, Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and coroners are playing their full parts in helping to track HAIs by the way they discharge their roles in certifying, registering and investigating HAI-related deaths?
6. Can you tell the Committee whether the Kent Health Protection Unit (HPU) is properly fulfilling its role in addressing HAIs in Kent and Medway?
7. Can you tell the Committee whether the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority (SHA) is properly fulfilling its Public Health role, and its role in performance-managing NHS bodies, in relation to HAIs?
8. Can you tell the Committee what specific initiatives the Director of Public Health is taking on this issue with both Public Health colleagues and local healthcare providers?
9. Can you tell the Committee whether HAIs can ever be completely eliminated and, if not, whether deaths from them can be completely eliminated?