

2019/20 Overview: Public Health Directorate

As of 1 October 2019, the Directorate employed 23 staff (21 established, two contracted). The smoking cessation service is currently supported by four bank staff and there are two vacant positions. The Directorate's budget for the 2019/20 year was £1,837,000.

Following preparation in the 2019/20 year, on 1 April 2020, the Directorate transferred to the Cabinet Office in line with recommendation 9 of the Independent Report into Health and Social Care in the Isle of Man:

"The Public Health Directorate should be empowered to provide advice and guidance across Government, not solely to the DHSC. It should promote and co-ordinate health and wellbeing across the Island to help improve the quality of life and reduce the demand on health and care services in the future. All Departments should be required to factor public health guidance into policy setting and legislation. To facilitate this, the Public Health Directorate should be moved to a position in the Cabinet Office".

A summary of work delivered by the Public Health Directorate in the 2019/20 year can be found on the Public Health Directorate page of the Isle of Man Government website under Business Plans (See 'Q3 Report 2019-20'). Note that due to Covid-19 business as usual activity in Public Health stopped in the final quarter of 2019/20 and staff were seconded to Covid-19 duties such as contact tracing and producing guidance documents. The Inter-Island Public Health Forum, a conference for Public Health professionals from island communities in the British Isles and beyond, due to be hosted by the Isle of Man this year was also cancelled in early 2020 due to the pandemic.

Reports published by the Public Health Directorate, including the independent Annual Report into the health of the Island by the Director of Public Health, the Public Health Outcomes Framework, joint strategic needs assessments and strategies can all be found via the links on the Public Health webpage on the Isle of Man Government website.