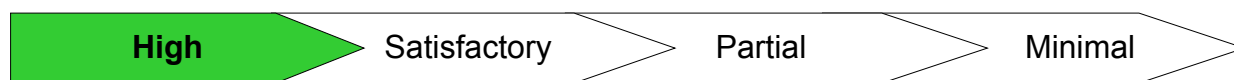


Appendix 3A: Audit Opinion and Themes

Assurance



Commissioning Public Health Services for 0 to 5 Year Olds

Objective

To assess whether there are robust arrangements in place to ensure that the 0 to 5 year olds contract is being delivered properly in compliance with the specified performance and quality standards, at the correct cost / price.

Themes

The responsibility for commissioning public health services for 0 to 5 year olds was transferred to the Council from NHS England in October 2015. Overall, the process was well managed.

The Health Transformation Board had met regularly to discuss progress with the transfer of commissioning responsibilities to the Council in October 2015 and beyond. There were also regular meetings with NHS England to ensure budget proposals for the transferred service were appropriate. The Benson planning model (which is a highly regarded health visitor planning methodology) was used to:

- ensure the latest thinking was adopted when developing the Council's Health Visiting approach
- help determine the most appropriate split in allocating the budget (using the demand from the prevailing 0 to 5 year old demographic).

Key Performance Indicator reports are produced by Public Health regarding 0 to 5 year olds and discussed regularly at Directorate Management Team meetings. The Public Health Outcomes Framework is also used to compare performance with peer local authorities.

The contract was agreed in line with the NHS model and was finalised prior to the Council involvement. The on-going arrangements for monitoring the commissioning of 0 to 5 year public health services are also appropriate. Regular contract monitoring meetings are held, which cover key performance and contractual areas. Action points ("recovery plans") emanate from the meetings and issues are followed up in the next meeting.

Number of actions agreed: 0