



Department of Health

Your ref: "100Days" 20141217

Our ref: PO00000919122

From Jane Ellison MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 4850

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
Oldham MBC, Level 3 Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham OL1 1UG

Dr Dr Wilkins

Thank you for your letter of 9 January to David Cameron about childhood obesity and diabetes. As this is a health-related matter, your correspondence has been passed to the Department of Health.

We know that tackling obesity and overweight in children has important long-term benefits for health, including its impact on heart disease, mental health and some cancers, as well as significant costs to the NHS and the overall economy.

The Department of Health has published the *Call to action on obesity in England*, which sets out the steps it is taking to help people to make healthy choices for themselves and their families. This includes a commitment to programmes such as the Change4Life campaign, the National Child Measurement Programme and NHS Health Checks. The *Call to action* can be viewed on the Government's information and advice website, www.gov.uk, by searching for 'healthy lives healthy people'.

Working with Public Health England (PHE), other Government departments, businesses and a variety of obesity and nutrition experts, we are ensuring a comprehensive response to childhood obesity. We were encouraged by recent figures showing a possible levelling off in childhood obesity, but know that it remains a major challenge.

PHE is developing the evidence base and ensuring this is translated into practice by working with workforce and education leads so that NHS, local authority and other professional groups are well prepared to help prevent as well as to treat obesity in children. PHE is also currently developing a national programme bringing together

its significant expertise, programmes and resources to promote good practice in tackling obesity based on the best evidence available to local authorities, which now have the responsibility for local action on this important issue.

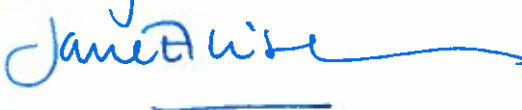
Alongside this, through our voluntary partnership with industry, business is taking action on calorie reduction and calorie labelling to help people make healthier choices. We are making real progress in getting the food and drink industry to cut the amount of calories, including sugar, in their foods through this voluntary approach. Further information is available online at <https://responsibilitydeal.dh.gov.uk>.

Losing weight is the best way to reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. PHE supports local projects that help people to do this, such as workplace weight management programmes. It also looks at what makes weight management and diabetes prevention interventions effective, and maps the current provision of weight management interventions across the country. It supports initiatives that translate the best available evidence into practice, such as the Men's Health Forum guide *How to make weight loss services work for men*, which was launched this month and encourages more men to access such services.

In addition, PHE provides dietary advice to support a healthy weight in the population, using a number of channels, including the social marketing programme Change4Life. Change4Life, which aims to help everyone in England to eat well, move more and live longer, can be accessed through the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk/change4life.

PHE has also recently published its *Everybody Active, Every Day* framework to support people to become more active. The framework can be downloaded from www.gov.uk by typing 'Everybody active, every day' into the search bar, and then clicking on the relevant link.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind regards


JANE ELLISON