

PRIVACY NOTICE FOR ISLE OF WIGHT PUBLIC HEALTH, 10/10/2016

Privacy Notice - Public Health

The Isle of Wight Public Health team improves and protects the health of the whole population on the Isle of Wight. We do this in a number of different ways. For example, we:

- Work with other departments in the council, the NHS, and other local and national organisations to make changes that will improve and protect the health of the population as a whole, for example to reduce social or environmental risks to health
- Use a range of information from different places to understand health and wellbeing issues and trends for the local population as a whole and for different communities or areas of the city. This allows us to allocate our scarce resources more effectively
- Pay for public health services that are provided for local people, like school nurses and health visitors.

What information we use and why

To do our job we need information about the health and wellbeing of people on the Isle of Wight - both now, and how this might change in the future. This information comes from lots of different places. Some is data we collect ourselves through the services that we pay for or provide, and some is data which comes from our partners in other parts of the local authority, the NHS, and other national or local organisations. For example, data from many of these sources can help us to understand patterns of diabetes and what we can do locally to stop people developing diabetes, and improve care for those with diabetes.

In bringing together this information we have one aim – to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of people on the Isle of Wight

The different kinds of information we use

Much of the information we use is in aggregate form. In other words, it is made up of statistics that relate to groups of people rather than to individuals. For example, we use aggregate data to produce statistics to help the public sector locally to identify local priorities to improve and protect the community we serve.

We also use data that relates to groups of individuals. We might also need to link different sources of information together. For example, we might link data about how many medical problems a person has with hospital admissions and with social care data to better understand the impacts of health problems on the individual now, and to plan services in the future. When we do need to use data relating to individuals,

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we remove as much of the detail as possible that could identify an individual. For example, we replace date of birth with age in years and home addresses with codes that cover larger geographical areas.

Sometimes we will need to use personal information, and where we do so we will make it clear when we collect personal information why we need this and what we intend to do with it.

How we protect the information we use

We take our legal and professional obligations to protect the confidentiality of personal information very seriously. As well as limiting the amount of personal information we hold, we make sure that our staff can only see information that is essential to their job. Some of the personal information we use is held on paper and some is held on computers. In both cases, we have processes to securely protect these records and to permanently delete any information that we no longer need to hold.

Who we share information with

Much of the information we produce is in the form of anonymous statistics published through our website (www.iwight.com/factsandfigures) and in reports and papers to the Health and Wellbeing Board and other partners. We never publish information that could be used to directly identify an individual. We only share information about individuals when the direct consent of individuals has been obtained or when there is a clear basis in the law for that information to be shared.

Further queries

More information about how the Council protects your privacy is available from our website at <https://www.iwight.com/council/OtherServices/Data-Protection/Introduction>

Along with other council departments, Isle of Wight Public Health follows the principles and standards for information sharing and data protection which are set out in the Isle of Wight Information Sharing Framework as well as national legislation, guidelines etc.

This privacy notice was written to be clear and concise. It does not provide exhaustive detail of all aspects of Isle of Wight Public Health's collection and use of information, including personal information. However, we are happy to provide any additional information or explanation needed. Any requests for this should be sent to the address below.

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You may also ask to find out if we hold any personal information by making a 'subject access request' under the Data Protection Act 1998 using the contact details below.

Changes to this privacy notice

We keep our privacy notice under regular review. This privacy notice was last updated on 10 October 2016.

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