

# A Healthy Relationship

## Public health and transport collaboration in local government



Transport is among the key issues determining whether or not a person leads a healthy lifestyle, influencing:



Public health teams 'returned' to local government in April 2013, having left in the 1974 NHS re-organisation...



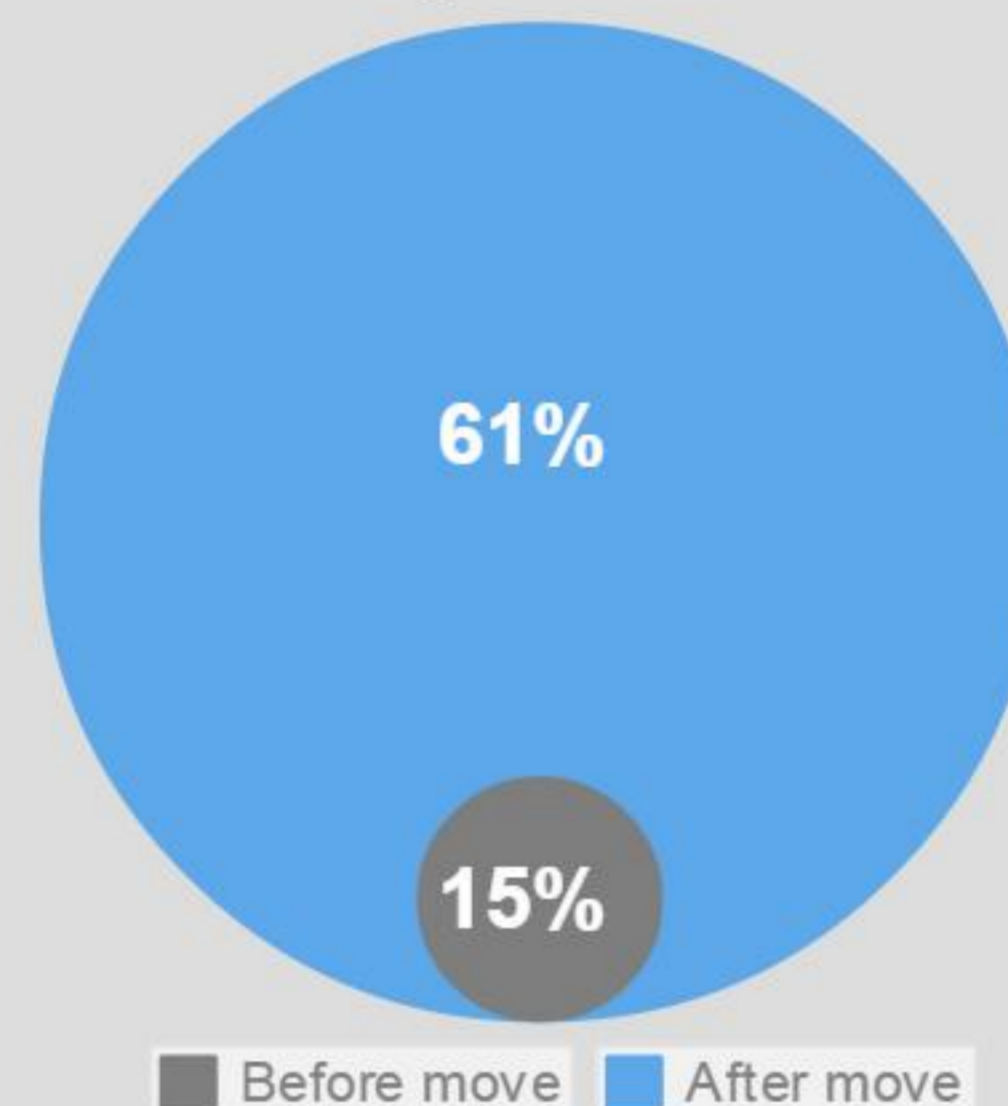
...the 2013 move was hoped to promote more local collaboration between public health and other complementary sectors, including transport.

Are public health and transport teams working together more closely since the move?

An England-wide survey of Directors of Public Health (DsPH) conducted in Autumn 2014 found...

Strong evidence of improved collaboration with transport since public health's move into local government...

Percentage of DsPH rating collaboration between public health and transport as medium high or high



Progress was particularly strong in places that had previously experienced the lowest levels of collaboration.

The majority of DsPH responding to the survey...

- Gave a medium to high priority to the health impacts of road transport in their work programme - active travel and air quality were particular priorities.
- Said their teams had had the opportunity to contribute to local transport plans, with a significant number reporting higher levels of engagement.
- Had participated in jointly funded projects and data sharing activity with transport colleagues.

DsPH identified a number of barriers to further joint working, including:



Lack of funding



Perceived cultural dominance of the car



Differing standards of evidence

However, there were numerous examples of good practice, six of which are explored in-depth in the study report, available here:

<http://pteg.net/resources>

