

THE WELLBEING OF COMMUNITIES IS AT RISK WHEN CORE BUDGETS ARE UNDER THREAT

To achieve wellbeing we need:

- Fair funding for revenue and capital budgets
- Recognition that wellbeing is about so much more than investing in the NHS- it's about investing in the **social determinants of health*** that Council services influence- it's about real investment in **public health** in its widest sense and a change in practices e.g. around licencing
- Public service structures and budgets that can respond locally around prevention and early intervention, with the ability to commission and direct resources to where they are needed in a whole system.

* World Health Organisation (WHO) defines the social determinants of health as "the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age"

Wellbeing is not just about being healthy; it's about being happy, comfortable, included and supported.

Council services provided every day influence wellbeing – welfare rights, financial inclusion, advocacy, mental health support, youth work, social work, libraries, parks and open spaces, lunch clubs, leisure centres, employability support –known as the "social determinants of health"*; these are critical to individual and community wellbeing. Investment now is investment in prevention and early intervention - dealing with the consequences costs much, much more.

Wellbeing depends on these essential services:



HIGH QUALITY SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

provide locally-based support so people can live and thrive within their communities, and investment in extra-care housing is being prioritised by

many Councils.



CRISIS SUPPORT AND EARLY INTERVENTION

prevent situations escalating and becoming longer- term, more costly problems- e.g. child and adult protection/Multi Agency Public

Protection Arrangement, financial support through the Scottish Welfare Fund, homelessness services focused on prevention and tenancy sustainment.



As people live longer, often with multiple and complex conditions, **INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

services are essential to maintaining independence and preventing costly

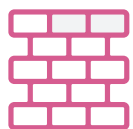
visits to hospital.



CRIMINAL AND YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES

support people to change behaviour through specialist programmes and coordinated community payback orders, resulting

in significant savings to the court system as well as wider societal benefits.



REGENERATION PROJECTS AND WELL-PLANNED INVESTMENT IN THE PUBLIC REALM

improve the environments in which people live and work.



COSLA

Our vision: Scotland's communities are sustainable, vibrant places to live, work and visit.

#essentialservices

Wellbeing



Investment in **COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES** and services that tackle **DOMESTIC ABUSE** is keeping people safer within their communities and working to prevent and deal with dangerous, damaging and antisocial behaviour.



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES maintain paths, public spaces, parks and allotments so that everyone can get out and about, enjoying both urban and rural environments that are safe, accessible and enhance wellbeing.



Access to **WELFARE, MONEY ADVICE AND ADVOCACY SERVICES**, provided directly by Councils or via Councils funding key partners such as Citizens Advice Bureaux, ensure that the most vulnerable in our communities get the support and advice they need and the benefits they are entitled to.



Access to affordable **SPORTS, LEISURE, LIBRARY AND CULTURE SERVICES** as well as providing important social spaces that are vital to communities.



YOUTH WORK AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT supports a network of local support and opportunities for people of all ages to participate and feel like they belong to their community of place or community of interest. And **EMPLOYABILITY SERVICES** can help when people are ready to get into work.



REGULATORY SERVICES ensure access to affordable, safe food in shops and restaurants, that appropriate licensing arrangements are in place to protect the public and that workplaces are safe.



The risks of not investing include increased costs in acute care and hospital waiting times, social isolation and depression when older people can't continue to live in their own community; increasing use of foodbanks; increased re-offending (and Scotland continuing to have one of the highest prison populations in Europe), increases in homelessness and associated health problems; breakdown in community cohesion and sense of place. Dealing with the consequences will cost much, much more than investing now.

Wellbeing is about much more than investment in the NHS- it's about investing in the *social determinants of health* and wider public health – the everyday services that enhance the lives of individuals, families and communities; it's about investing in early intervention and protecting the vulnerable discretionary services so that Scottish Government and Local Government shared policy objectives can be met.