

Private and Confidential

10 Year Population Health Plan

Summary and Recommendations

In response to failing population health outcomes in Scotland, the Scottish Government intends to develop a 10 Year Population Health Plan. This will take a preventative and collaborative approach, addressing the primary drivers of population health. Scottish Government presented the intention of the 10 Year Population Health Plan to COSLA's Health and Social Care Board in September 2023 and received initial endorsement from Board members. This paper seeks agreement from Leaders to take a joint approach to the content development and implementation of the Population Health Plan, with COSLA Officials working together with Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland and NHS colleagues.

Leaders are invited to:

- i. Note the update provided in this report in relation to the development of the Population Health Plan so far.
- ii. Agree the position outlined in paragraph 11.

References

No previous papers

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10 Year Population Health Plan

Purpose

1. This report outlines the background to the 10 Year Population Health Plan and seeks Leaders' agreement on taking a joint approach to the content development and implementation of the Population Health Plan.

Current COSLA Position

2. COSLA has a partnership agreement in place with Public Health Scotland, co-sponsoring the organisation alongside Scottish Government. This partnership reflects both the need for a collaborative, whole-system approach to public health, and the important role local government plays in determining public health outcomes through the delivery of essential services.
3. COSLA Officials are represented on the Place and Wellbeing Board, which sits within the Scottish Government's Care and Wellbeing Portfolio and works with partners to understand change required at a national level to enable change locally. Within this programme, COSLA Officials also sit on the Enabling Local Change Delivery Group, which aims to ensure local partners achieve fairer health and wellbeing outcomes through the coordinated efforts of Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).
4. At the COSLA Health and Social Care Board in September 2023, Scottish Government representatives presented Members with the idea of creating the Population Health Plan. Members provided initial endorsement, highlighting the opportunity for collaborative governance as well as local partnership work to deliver long-term improvement and reform.

What is Changing?

5. Population health outcomes in Scotland are failing to improve. Data from the National Records of Scotland shows that after years of stagnation, more people have been dying prematurely and spending more time in ill health since even before the onset of the pandemic, particularly in our most vulnerable communities. In addition, the impacts of Covid-19 and the ongoing cost of living crisis have been felt unevenly across communities, resulting in a widening gap in life expectancy between the poorest and wealthiest.

6. [The Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report for 2022-23](#) outlined three further and concurrent challenges to population health in Scotland: remaining threats from infectious diseases, demographic changes, and the climate emergency which is already affecting health and wellbeing.
7. The Scottish Government intends to address this serious and complex issue through a long-term and collaborative approach focused on primary prevention. This means preventing problems before they arise by addressing the primary drivers of population health. In alignment with research by the [King's Fund](#), the "four pillars" of population health are: social and economic factors; health behaviours, the local and physical environment, and access to and quality of the health and care system.
8. In addition to the presentation to COSLA's Health and Social Care Board, Scottish Government representatives engaged in initial conversations with Community Planning Improvement Board, Directors of Public Health and NHS Board Chairs and Chief Executives. Scottish Government officials will also meet with SOLACE on 23rd February to gain further input from Local Government.
9. It is intended that by taking a whole system approach to public health and developing content in collaboration with key partners, the Population Health Plan will link to other long-term plans for mental health and health and social care (namely the Integrated Health and Care Services Plan) as well as across the government to the key drivers of inequalities.
10. The timetable for the development of the Population Health Plan is to draft in April and May before publication in June. Any resourcing implications for the Plan will become clearer as content develops. There will be an opportunity to consider resourcing in more detail as the work progresses. Existing collaborative groups which already have COSLA representation could support joint working with Scottish Government. For instance, the Place and Wellbeing Board would provide formal governance for the development of the Plan.
11. With Leaders' approval, Scottish Government will work in partnership with COSLA to jointly develop the content for and implementation of the Population Health Plan.


Proposed COSLA Position

12. Leaders are invited to:
 - i. Note the update provided in this report in relation to the development of the Population Health Plan so far.
 - ii. Agree the position outlined in paragraph 11.

Next Steps

13. COSLA Officers will contribute to the whole system development of the Population Health Plan at the next Public Health System meeting on Friday 22nd March, alongside Directors of Public Health and representatives from Public Health Scotland and Scottish Government.

Contribution to agreed COSLA Plan and Verity House Agreement:

	Priority Areas	
	Strengthen Local Democracy	
	Secure Sustainable Funding	
	Improve the Wellbeing of Individuals, Families and Communities	√
	Enhance Education and Support for our Children and Young People	
	Deliver a Just Transition to a Net Zero Economy	
	Support the Most Vulnerable in our Communities	√
<u>Verity House Agreement</u>	Shared Priorities	
	Tackling Poverty	√
	Just transition to net zero	
	Sustainable Public Services	√