

Statement on behalf of Directors of Public Health

Publication of Practicing Realistic Medicine: The Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2016-17

The Directors of Public Health in Scotland warmly welcome the publication today of Dr Catherine Calderwood's third annual report as Chief Medical Officer, *Practicing Realistic Medicine*.

The role that the public health community within the NHS has to play in making realistic medicine an everyday reality is already well recognised. Directors remain committed to continuing support of realistic medicine in health care settings across Scotland. However, with this third report, we particularly welcome the recognition of the essential contribution that can come from realistic population health.

As Directors of Public Health, we fully endorse the call to embed prevention into the whole system of health and social care. We also welcome the clear reminder for action to address the fundamental causes of inequality and ill-health that affect the whole of Scottish society.

Practicing Realistic Medicine sets all this within the context of the ongoing reform of the public health system in Scotland. This work, which builds on the existing strength of public health practice in Scotland, will widen the scope of public health efforts and help Directors of Public Health, their teams, and the wider public health workforce across Scotland to be more effective in their work.

Dr Andrew Fraser, Chair of the Scottish Directors of Public Health, said:

"Practicing realistic medicine goes hand in hand with delivering effective population health. This report provides all of us with a call to action to redouble our efforts in prevention and tackling inequalities in health together.

"That the CMO's report has focussed on realistic population health at a time of public health reform provides us with an opportunity to involve and engage the whole system within Scotland to bring the necessary changes that address inequality and improve the health of all of Scotland's people."

For inquiries, contact 07500 854 574

Practicing Realistic Medicine: The Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2016-17 is available from: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/04/6385>

Examples of existing work by Public Health teams in Scotland supporting Realistic Medicine can be found on the ScotPHN website here:

https://www.scotphn.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2017_06_22-ScotPHN-Realistic-Medicine-Workshop-Final-Report.pdf