

**THE SCOTTISH PUBLIC HEALTH REVIEW
POSITION STATEMENT by Scottish Directors of Public Health**

14 January 2015

This position statement is the first of a number Scottish Directors of Public Health are writing to communicate key messages of interest to the service and stakeholders.

The Scottish Directors of Public Health have welcomed the recently announced Review of Public Health, and the commitment of the Minister to further strengthen the role, capacity, capability and effectiveness of public health in Scotland through the work of the Review.

We see this as an opportunity to:

- increase the visibility and Influence of the specialist and wider public health workforce in Scotland
- share our achievements and demonstrate the impact of our efforts
- focus on improving our effectiveness, and work more efficiently to improve outcomes
- build our resilience and capacity to deal with, and contribute to the changing public sector environment in which we work
- make the case for appropriate investment in improving and protecting the population's health
- better support the Scottish Government in its renewed commitment to tackle inequalities and promote equity and social justice.

We are currently working in a supportive policy environment with the Scottish Government prioritising public health policy in areas of prevention and early intervention, co-production and asset-based working, and taking a whole systems approach to a number of key public health priorities such as Early Years, obesity, tackling violence and substance misuse.

We see no better time or opportunity to strengthen the public health workforce (both specialist and general), to make best use of available resources and deliver value for money, and to make the case for change where we know we can improve outcomes.

We will contribute to the Review by responding as key stakeholders to the questions and challenges that the review poses, and through our leadership role by supporting the engagement of colleagues and partners. DsPH have already presented to the Review Group and set out our perception of strengths and the potential for improvement.

We are collating examples of best practice to show how public health programmes work as whole systems approaches, and what coherent Public Health provision looks like. We are also producing case studies on how things could be done better to develop evidence for the case for change to strengthen effective public health practice going forward.

The DsPH will produce further briefings using the examples we collate to inform the Review, and to share with colleagues across the field of public health, showing best practice and lessons for the future.

In addition we are actively preparing ourselves for future change through a number of pieces of work:

- Scenario planning to think through the potential consequences of public sector reform, so that we are best placed to maximise the impact of public health in current and future public sector organisational change (particularly the refreshed Community Planning Partnerships and the emerging Health and Social Care Partnerships)
- A briefing on how public health has been tackling efficiency and savings challenges
- Workforce planning - a workforce planning group that will set out an agenda for strengthening / developing public leadership, now and in the future
- Expanding the use and range of improvement methodologies as applied to public health practice to address public health priorities more efficiently and effectively within the resources available
- Increasing the public profile of our work to develop and implement the evidence base for public health action
- Speaking up publicly more often about the challenges to the public's health and where we see alternatives to current approaches

We hope you see this as helpful communication through a time of change and opportunity.

We are interested in any views, contributions that colleagues want to play in. As well as our regular communication through teams, departments, stakeholder groups etc, we would be happy to receive direct feedback / suggestions for further work or actions, or additional contributions to the work we have under way. We would also be interested in seeing the responses that others feed into the Review to help us shape our own thinking.

Feel free to get in touch through any of the Scottish Directors of Public Health individually or via the ScotPHN team at nhs.HealthScotland-SDPH@nhs.net

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On behalf of Scottish Directors of Public Health

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