

Delivering A Fairer Healthier Scotland:



NHS Health Scotland Delivery Plan 2016–17

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Summary for our stakeholders

About NHS Health Scotland

We are a national Health Board working with public, private and third sector organisations to reduce health inequalities and improve health. Our 2012–17 corporate strategy **A Fairer Healthier Scotland**¹ sets out our vision of a Scotland in which all of our people and communities have a fairer share of the opportunities, resources and confidence to live longer, healthier lives. Our primary role is to work with others to produce, share and implement knowledge of what works to improve the health of the people of Scotland in an equitable way. Along with other NHS Boards in Scotland we develop an annual delivery plan. A short summary of this is given below. The full **delivery plan**² can be accessed online.

Addressing health inequalities and health equity

Everyone has a right to attain the highest possible standard of health in Scotland. Our focus is on ensuring the fundamental causes of inequalities in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are addressed and that the health of all in Scotland improves equitably. Action across all of the social determinants of health is needed if we are to realise our ambitions for a fairer and healthier Scotland.

Social determinants of health

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which we are born, we grow and age, and in which we live and work. These factors (shown on the right) impact on our health and wellbeing.



Childhood experiences



Housing



Education



Social support



Family income



Employment



Our communities



Access to health services

¹ www.healthscotland.com/documents/5792.aspx

² www.healthscotland.com/documents/27463.aspx

Our delivery plan spans action across the social determinants of health in partnership with the public, private and third sectors. This includes a focus on improving the quality of the services people receive, the places they work and live in and the share of the money, power and other resources they need for good health and wellbeing.

This includes work with health and social care services to improve healthy life expectancy, and the work of our Health and Work Directorate on Fair Work. Crucially, it also includes our support to develop and strengthen the economic leverage of NHSScotland in areas of multiple deprivation.

Our work in the year ahead

Our work for this year is grouped into five core programmes; an overview of these programmes is given below:

Core programme 1: fundamental causes

The aim is to strengthen the evidence base and to effectively support policy and decision makers to take evidence informed action that will reduce health inequalities.

We will provide evidence-based reviews on welfare and low income, including the cost of living and the impact of tax and welfare reform policies. We will co-produce and distribute evidence, research and analyses to further Scotland's understanding of inequalities and what has worked to mitigate their impact on health, including the relationship between power and health inequality.

Core programme 2: social and physical environments for health

The aim is to ensure that the places and communities, in which people live and work, support and promote good health for all.

Where we live and work – our home, neighbourhood, social meeting places, workplaces and green spaces – has a vital influence on the quality of our lives, and our long-term health and wellbeing. People have the right to participate, be included and socialise with others in their community, throughout their lives. This includes when their personal circumstances change, for example as they grow older or are in need of more support.

Supporting people and communities to have a say in their area is an important element of our work. This includes supporting people to work in coproduction and promoting the use of the **Place Standard**.³ We will work with partners on promoting the use of the Place Standard, including promoting its use by third sector organisations within local authorities.

Improving environments, policies and practice so that they take account of the needs and rights of all population groups is covered by this programme – these include people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, people in the criminal justice system and families with young children living in adversity.

³ www.placestandard.scot

Core programme 3: system change for equity

The aim is to strengthen the potential of services to improve health and to reduce and prevent inequalities impacting on health.

Public Services must be accessible if they are to contribute to health equity.* This means that services and programmes must reach and meet the needs of people who need them most as well as work effectively across the whole population. We will work with our national partners and local public health teams, leaders, planners and practitioners across all sectors to help turn knowledge of what works into action within the NHS, through integrated joint boards and community planning partnerships.

Core programme 4: the right of every child to good health

The aim is to support and promote action across the fundamental causes and environmental influences that are barriers to achieving good health while at the same time ensuring that practice to support children, young people and families experiencing inequality is strengthened and improved.

Children's early life circumstances and experiences – from before birth and from then on – shape their physical, social, mental, emotional and cognitive development and provide a foundation for their future attainment and health. Inequality is a barrier to the right of every child to good health.

We will continue to work collaboratively with local public health teams and local government partners to take action on the main barriers to a healthy start, particularly focusing on gender-based violence and poverty. We will also lead a programme of work to reduce the effects of inequalities on marginalised young people.

Core programme 5: organisational excellence and innovation

The aim is to manage and develop our funding, people and other resources, so that we are highly effective in working with others in generating and sharing the knowledge that is needed to achieve our aims.

We will work to achieve better engagement and sharing of knowledge with decision makers, planners and practitioners across the public sector.

The table below highlights key areas of our work; for the full range of our work in 2016/17 please see our [delivery plan](#).⁴

⁴ www.healthscotland.com/documents/27463.aspx

*Health equity is the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically. Failure to achieve health equity represents a failure to avoid or overcome inequalities that infringe on fairness and the human right of all to achieve the highest attainable standard of health.

Priorities	Key actions
Antenatal and early years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope the information, evidence and planning support required by local partnerships, the third sector, the NHS and local authorities (LAs) to resource proportionate actions to reduce and prevent adverse family circumstances impacting on the health and wellbeing of young people, children and families. This will include promoting equity in antenatal service access, educational attainment and play.
Services are designed with and for people so that everyone gets the care they need through scheduled and unscheduled care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the third sector, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and National Services Scotland to deliver outcome improvement work that effectively brings together national and local public health capacity to support integrated joint boards (IJBs) and community planning partnerships (CPPs). Work with the third sector and Strathclyde University to implement the Scottish National Action Plan on human rights through the health and social care action group's priority actions for 2016/17 to advance a human rights based approach within health and social care services.
Implementation of the Place Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with Scottish Government and with the third sector, raise awareness and promote implementation of the Place Standard – ensuring its impact is distributed in a way that acts to reduce inequalities.
Housing and homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the third sector, directors of public health, housing and other key partners on the prevention of homelessness by driving delivery of the recommendations stemming from our ScotPHN report⁵ and UK best practice guidelines. Generate, combine and disseminate knowledge relating to housing and health enabling this knowledge to be translated into action by policy and decision-makers to improve the quality and affordability of housing across Scotland. Co-fund the GoWell⁶ research and learning programme investigating the impact of investment in housing, regeneration and neighbourhood renewal in Glasgow on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.
Physical inactivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead and contribute to the delivery of key actions within or directly related to the National Physical Activity Implementation Plan⁷
Alcohol and drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the development and implementation of alcohol and drug policy in Scotland by providing the best available evidence and working in partnership with the Scottish Government, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships and the third sector to deliver improvement work.
Improving the health of offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Scottish Government, the Criminal Justice Authority Chief Officers Group, Community Justice Scotland and the third sector to strengthen action to reduce the impact of offending and reduce inequalities. Collaborate on improvement methodologies to strengthen community justice redesign activity and the transition into local community planning partnerships.

⁵ www.scotphn.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Restoring-the-Public-Health-response-to-Homelessness-in-Scotland-May-2015.pdf

⁶ www.gowellonline.com/about

⁷ www.gov.scot/Topics/ArtsCultureSport/Sport/MajorEvents/Glasgow-2014/Commonwealth-games/Indicators/PAIP