

Management Committee

Date: 27th March 2015

Public/ Private: Public



National Public Health Review

1.0 Purpose

To raise awareness of, and request any further input to, the National Public Health Review.

2.0 Recommendations

The Management Committee:

- Note the main issues that have been fed in to the current stage of consultation by NHS Highland at 4.1.
- Add any further comment taking into consideration points at 4.2.
- Note that there will be further consultations through planned national workshops.

3.0 Background

Scottish Ministers have established a group to take forward a review of public health in Scotland. The review group issued an initial engagement paper asking five key questions to help inform the work of the group by with responses by 12 March 2015. Part of the review process is to engage with stakeholders on the themes arising from responses and engagement sessions are being arranged by the Scottish Public Health Network for May 2015.

4.0 Public Health Review – initial 5 key questions

1. How can public health in Scotland best contribute to the challenges discussed? Specifically, views and evidence of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the contribution of the public health function in improving Scotland's health and reducing inequalities?
2. How can public health leadership in Scotland be developed to deliver maximum impact?
3. How do we strengthen and support partnerships to tackle the challenges and add greater value? How do we support the wider public health workforce within those partnerships to continue to develop and sustain their public health roles?

4. What would help to maintain a core/specialist public health resource that works effectively is well co-ordinated and resilient?
5. How can we provide opportunities for professional development and workforce succession planning for the core public health workforce?

4.1 Key points in NHS Highland response include:

- NHS Highland has been clear that across the response to the questions there are specific demands of public health practice due to the remote and rural focus of much of the work.
- Co-located local diverse teams of health professionals working with others best deliver a holistic approach to health care.
- Short term funding of projects undermines sustainability.
- Need to be better at showcasing and demonstrating the impact of public health work.
- A focus on short, medium and long term outcomes is needed rather than a short term outcome focussed performance environment.
- There needs to be an opportunity within the review to frame public health actions in relation to addressing inequalities, e.g. people living in poverty.
- There should be clearly defined purposes of agencies and departments that lead on health agendas i.e. Joint Improvement Team.
- Need a vision for health and clear priorities.
- Current direction for supporting community empowerment and co-production is positive.
- Avoiding fragmentation of staff and maintenance of staff at local levels is essential.
- There is a need to ensure public health professionals continue to operate at a senior level within the health service and local authorities. This includes ensuring that Directors of Public Health continue to represent population and preventative perspectives within Executive Management

4.2 Other contributing points that CPP may wish to consider adding to the response

- To emphasise to the Scottish Government the need to consider differences to delivery in rural and remote areas.
- Focus on long term outcomes is key and this requires dedicated sustainable funding streams rather than short term funded campaigns.
- To enable full engagement through community planning there needs to be timescales of at least 3 months consultation time with most CPPs meeting quarterly. This would also allow for stronger community planning engagement at a local level, for example through Argyll and Bute's Area Community Planning Groups.

- Language of co-production is confusing and Scottish Government need to be clear when talking about engagement and involvement at local level that they are not creating different labels for the same thing: i.e. participatory budgeting, co-production, community engagement. Need one clear message or there is a risk of organisations thinking they are doing different things and not joining together.

5.0 Next steps

The Scottish Government is running national workshops to look in detail at the main issues from the responses to the consultation. A representative from Argyll and Bute CPP team will attend the event on 21 May 2015 to put forward any further points that the CPP wish to raise on this.

6.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	Health is a cross cutting theme of the SOA. There is a focus on Health and Wellbeing in Outcome 5.
Consultations, Previous considerations	NHS Highland response has been considered.
Resources	Community Planning team can feedback to Scottish Government any further input from Argyll and Bute CPP
Prevention	Health has a focus on prevention.
Equalities	Response highlights challenges in targeting services and activities for groups, individuals and people within the dispersed geography of Argyll and Bute.

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References:

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