

To: Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership – Oversight Group

On: 20th May 2019

**Report by: Laura McIntyre, Head of Policy and Commissioning,
Renfrewshire Council**

TITLE: Public Health Reform

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to members of the Oversight Group on national developments relating to public health reform, which will impact on community planning partners in Renfrewshire, as across Scotland. The enhanced focus on public health at a national level, provides an opportunity to achieve step change in terms of improving health outcomes across Scotland, and more specifically within Renfrewshire.
- 1.2 The vision is a Scotland where everybody thrives. The ambition is for Scotland to be a world leader in improving the public's health. Public health reform aims to create a culture for health in Scotland that recognises the social and economic issues that affect health and creates environments that drive, enable and sustain healthy behaviours in our communities, supporting individuals to take ownership of their own health and wellbeing wherever possible. The innovative use of knowledge, data and intelligence will be a key tool in achieving this.
- 1.2 Public health reform is a partnership between Scottish Government and COSLA, however, it is recognised that the combined efforts of partners from across the public, private and third sectors and, importantly, from local communities are vital to achieving this ambition.
- 1.3 Scottish Government and COSLA are committed three significant areas of work:
 - * agreeing public health priorities for Scotland;
 - * establishing a new national public health body for Scotland; and
 - * develop a whole system approach to improve health and reduce health inequalities

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members note the content of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 Public health reform is a partnership between Scottish Government and COSLA. However, it is recognised that the vision for Scotland's health cannot be achieved by any one organisation working alone and requires combined efforts of partners from across the public, private and third sectors and, importantly, from local communities.

- 3.2 The reform aims to challenge current ways of working, put more decisions directly in the hands of citizens and provide support to local communities to develop their own approaches and solutions to local population health challenges.
- 3.3 In order to deliver the vision for public health reform, the Scottish Government and COSLA have committed to:
- agreeing public health priorities for Scotland that are important public health concerns and that they can do something about;
 - establishing a new national public health body for Scotland bringing together expertise from NHS Health Scotland, Health Protection Scotland and Information Services Division; and
 - supporting different ways of working to develop a whole system approach to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

3.4 Public Health Priorities

Following extensive consultation with a range of partners and stakeholders, Scotland's Public Health Priorities for Scotland were published in June 2018 and are as follows:

- A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe communities;
- A Scotland where we flourish in our early years;
- A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing;
- A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs;
- A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all; and
- A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.

It is widely accepted that it may take up to 10 years to see a meaningful impact in the health of the nation.

3.5 Establishing a new national public health body for Scotland

It is envisaged that Public Health Scotland will be established in December 2019. There are several strands of the work, which are already underway, to inform how the new body will function and operate.

- Commissions and projects - The Public Health Reform team has established a number of projects and commissions to engage with stakeholders and design the new body. These projects and commissions include data and intelligence, health protection, healthcare public health and health improvement.
- The Target Operating Model (TOM) builds on the work completed by the commissions and projects strand. The proposed TOM is currently in draft format for consultation which concludes at the end of March 2019. The TOM sets out the following ambition for PHS:
 - * Provides **strong public health leadership**. Public Health Scotland will be Scotland's lead national agency for public health. It needs to underpin the rest of the public health system with **high quality, effective and supportive** health improvement, health protection and health care public health functions and vital system-wide leadership roles in research, innovation and the public health workforce.
 - * Takes a **whole system approach**. Being the lead organisation does not mean by being the one organisation that solves the problems we face. Instead it

means by supporting and enabling others in the public health system to take action together, across organisational boundaries and within communities.

- * Takes an **external focus**, being an **inclusive and collaborative** national organisation that spends less time in isolation deciding what it wants to do and more time listening to what help others need from it.
 - * Builds **strong and lasting partnerships**, founded in mutual support and not simply on what Public Health Scotland wants to achieve.
 - * Has a **clear focus on supporting local systems** and plays a key role in enabling and supporting delivery at a local and regional level. National government plays an important role in Scotland's health. However, the frontline of public health is in local services.
 - * Is **intelligence, data and evidence led**. Public Health Scotland's authority and integrity are rooted in the evidence, intelligence and data it uses to drive change.
 - * Is **innovative**. To drive the change we need, we need to find new ways of doing things.
 - * Is **visibly a new and different organisation**—not because change is an end in itself but because without changing how things are now, we will not be able to meet the health challenges Scotland faces.
- Legislative Consultation - The Scottish Government will lead a consultation on establishing the new body and will focus on the legislative requirements. The consultation will seek views on Public Health Scotland's
 - * governance and accountability
 - * outcomes and performance
 - * functions and structure
 - * future relationships with the wider public health system.

The consultation will provide an opportunity for individuals, organisations and partners to influence the new body and how it will lead and support collaboration to improve health and wellbeing in Scotland. This consultation was scheduled to begin in February 2019, however it has not yet been published.

3.6 Developing a whole system approach

The reform programme aims to influence how working across a number of areas as part of a whole system approach will improve the public's health, with an increasing focus on preventing ill health and early intervention. It is anticipated that by working effectively together we can improve the public's health and reduce health inequalities. Whether working in housing, education, employment or health and social care services, how we plan and deliver services together will have an impact on the health of individuals and communities.

- 3.7 National and local government will have an important role in ensuring that improving the public's health is increasingly at the centre of policy and strategy. It is also important to highlight that it is proposed that local government will work with communities, third sector organisations and public health teams to engage and empower citizens to tackle Scotland's public health priorities.
- 3.8 In addition, **community planning and health and social care partnerships will be enablers of change** and will increasingly work with public health teams and communities to realise the reform ambitions for whole system working to improve the public's health, by developing local solutions to local public health challenges.
- 3.9 Once in situ, the Specialist Public Health Workforce will work closely with colleagues from communities, partnerships, local government and national government, to increasingly provide support in ways that:

- support improvements in policy and how we plan and deliver services;
- identify what works in improving the public's health; and
- make data available and accessible so partners can plan and deliver services based on local public health intelligence.

3.10 Making data available in accessible formats will also support communities gather insights into local population health challenges so they can fully engage in decision making and develop local solutions.

4. **Next Steps**

4.1 The Oversight Group will be kept informed of any developments national, including the consultation regarding the establishment of the nation public health body in Scotland, and any local activities as they emerge.

Author: Yvonne Farquhar, Service Planning and Policy Development Manager, Chief Executives Service
yvonne.farquhar@renfrewshire.gov.uk 01416187409