

20 March 2024

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

Report by Dr Sohail Bhatti, Director of Public Health



1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1. This report, “Real Action for Prevention”, is presented by the Director of Public Health for noting by the board. Our DPH started in post September 2022 so this report highlights activity of the Public Health Department over all of the year 2023 and provides context and suggestions for putting prevention at the forefront of our efforts going forward. This report establishes what prevention means to the public health profession and thus can be used as a point of common understanding with partners.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. **The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board (IJB) is asked to:-**

- a) Note the report.

3. ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND WAYS OF WORKING

3.1. It is expected that the proposal will impact on the Health and Social Care Strategic Framework Objectives and Ways of Working below:

Alignment to our strategic objectives					
Rising to the workforce challenge	Improving access	Focusing on early intervention and prevention	Supporting unpaid carers	Improving our effectiveness and thinking differently to meet need with less	Reducing poverty and inequalities
		X		X	X

Alignment to our ways of working					
People at the heart of everything we do	Good agile teamwork and ways of working – Team Borders approach	Delivering quality, sustainable, seamless services	Dignity and respect	Care and compassion	Inclusive co-productive and fair with openness, honesty and responsibility
X	X				X

4. INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD DIRECTION

4.1. A Direction is not required.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1. Section 1 provides detail of the DPH vision for public and population health in the Scottish Borders and section 2 includes reports from the Joint Health Improvement Team, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Screening Team, Oral Health report and the Joint Health Protection Plan (joint with SBC).
- 5.2 This is an important time for public health in the Borders and in Scotland. Public Health Priorities are not just for public health departments to deliver. We need to be tackling the fundamental causes of health inequalities. This means working through our partnerships with others and thinking about how we work with local communities to shape our efforts.
- 5.3 The DPH will be bringing our strategy, Tackling Health Inequalities in the Scottish Borders (THIS Borders) to public attention in the next few months but we have already begun by bringing together stakeholders and partners in a series of workshops to share our emerging findings and to help shape the way the evidence is presented and prioritised.

6. IMPACTS

Community Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

- 6.1. It is expected that the proposal will impact on the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes below:

N	Outcome description	Increase / Decrease / No impact
1	People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.	X
2	People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community.	X
3	People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.	
4	Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.	X
5	Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.	X
6	People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and well-being.	
7	People who use health and social care services are safe from harm.	
8	People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide.	
9	Resources are used effectively and efficiently in the provision of health and social care services.	

Financial impacts

- 6.1 N/A.

Equality, Human Rights and Fairer Scotland Duty

6.2. An impact assessment has not been completed because this is linked to our overall strategy to reduce health inequalities across the area.

Legislative considerations

6.3. N/A.

Climate Change and Sustainability

6.4. N/A.

Risk and Mitigations

6.5. N/A.

7. CONSULTATION

Communities consulted

7.1 No stakeholder groups have been consulted in the writing of this report as it presents an approach to community engagement, development and health improvement going forward.

Integration Joint Board Officers consulted

7.2 IJB Chief Officer.

Approved by:

Dr Sohail Bhatti, Director of Public Health

Author(s)

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Background Papers: Appendix 1: Joint Health Improvement Team Annual Report
Appendix 2: Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Annual Report
Appendix 3: The Joint Health Protection Plan
Appendix 4: The Annual Report on Screening
Appendix 5: Report on Oral Health

Previous Minute Reference: N/A

For more information on this report, contact us at Dr Sohail Bhatti, Sohail.bhatti@borders.scot.nhs.uk