

**Private and Confidential**

**Address from Public Health Scotland's Chief Executive and Chair**

**Summary and Recommendations**

Paul Johnston, Public Health Scotland Chief Executive, and Angiolina Foster, Chair of the Board, will address COSLA Leaders at the meeting in May. This report provides an overview of current strategic engagement and key areas of work between COSLA and Public Health Scotland (PHS) to help inform Leaders' discussion with Mr Johnston and the Ms Foster following their input.

Leaders are asked to:

- i. Note the joint address from the PHS Chief Executive and Chair;
- ii. Comment on the themes covered by the Chief Executive and Chair; and
- iii. Comment on the updates provided in the paper on strategic priorities, current engagement and key areas of work between COSLA and PHS.

**References**

LD/24/024 10 Year Population Health Plan

**Health and Social Care Team – COSLA**

**May 2024**



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### **Address from Public Health Scotland's Chief Executive and Chair**

#### **Purpose**

1. This report provides an overview of strategic priorities, current engagement, and key areas of work between COSLA and Public Health Scotland to help inform Leaders' discussion with Mr Johnston and Ms Foster following their input at the meeting.

#### **Current COSLA Position**

2. Public Health Scotland was established as new public body and NHS Board in 2020, supported by a unique joint-sponsorship arrangement by COSLA and Scottish Government.
3. COSLA continues to engage regularly with Public Health Scotland at both officer and political level. COSLA officers contribute to PHS' strategic and delivery planning including Annual Delivery Plans and long-term Operating and Strategic Plans. Scottish Ministers are accountable to the Scottish Parliament for the functions and performance of Public Health Scotland.
4. The sponsorship arrangement is discussed at a political level at six-monthly meetings between the COSLA Health and Social Care Spokesperson and the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health.
5. In terms of governance, two COSLA-nominated councillors represent Local Government on the PHS Board. All COSLA policy Boards have representation from a PHS Director. COSLA's Director of People Policy and the Health and Social Care Chief Officer are members of a senior Public Health Leadership Group with PHS and Directors of Public Health.

#### **What's Changing?**

6. In February 2024, Leaders endorsed the intention to develop a 10-Year Population Health Framework, a cross-government and preventative approach, focused on addressing the primary drivers of population health.
7. The Framework will be co-designed by COSLA, Public Health Scotland, Directors of Public Health and Scottish Government. The current timeline is to publish a draft in June for wider discussion, before the final version is published in Autumn.

8. Work has been going on at all levels to continue to develop and strengthen the partnership between COSLA and PHS. There is regular engagement through the review process between the COSLA Health and Social Care Spokesperson and PHS senior staff. This also provides the Spokesperson with the opportunity to discuss the wider work of PHS with staff.
9. At COSLA's Health and Social Care Board meeting in May, the PHS Directors of Strategic Planning and Performance and Place and Wellbeing provided a presentation to Board Members on how PHS supports local systems. PHS provides support at a local level around data, including identifying key indicators and outcomes which can be used locally for important public health issues such as child poverty. In addition, PHS co-designing resources with local areas to inform decision-making and evaluation processes.
10. All of this work is aimed at building on the support from PHS for local authorities, recognising the increasing challenges that communities face with growing inequalities, including an increasing gap in the life expectancy and quality of life between our poorest and most affluent communities.
11. Strengthening the partnership recognises the respective crucial roles of local authorities, their partners and public health in tackling these challenges.

### Proposed COSLA Position


12. Leaders are asked to:

- i. Note the joint address from the PHS Chief Executive and Chair;
- ii. Comment on the themes covered by the Chief Executive and Chair; and
- iii. Comment on the updates provided in the paper on strategic priorities, current engagement and key areas of work between COSLA and PHS.

### Next Steps

13. COSLA will continue engaging with Public Health Scotland as part of the joint-sponsorship arrangement alongside Scottish Government. Updates will be provided to Leaders as appropriate.

### Contribution to agreed COSLA Plan and Verity House Agreement:

	<b>Priority Areas</b>	
	Strengthen Local Democracy	
	Secure Sustainable Funding	
	Improve the Wellbeing of Individuals, Families and Communities	√
	Enhance Education and Support for our Children and Young People	
	Deliver a Just Transition to a Net Zero Economy	
	Support the Most Vulnerable in our Communities	√
<a href="#">Verity House Agreement</a>	<b>Shared Priorities</b>	
	Tackling Poverty	√
	Just transition to net zero	
	Sustainable Public Services	√