

Population Health Framework

Summary and Recommendations

COSLA and Scottish Government are currently co-designing the Population Health Framework (PHF). This 10-year Framework which will take a collaborative and preventative approach to address the wide-ranging determinants of health, including optimising children's and young people's health and wellbeing and tackling child poverty. In order to support a cross-government and cross-sector approach, extensive stakeholder engagement is taking place this Autumn, including seeking feedback from all COSLA policy Boards. This paper is supported by an Engagement Document (Appendix A) which discusses the purpose and scope of the PHF and outlines questions to support engagement. Members are invited to provide feedback on the Engagement Document to support the development of the PHF.

The Board is invited to:

- i. Note the update in the development of the Population Health Framework.
- ii. Comment on the plans to develop the Population Health Framework, as outlined in the Engagement Document (Appendix A).

References

Previous relevant reports include:

- LD 24-02-23 Item 06 10-Year Year Population Health Plan
- EE 24-09-06 Item 06 Population Health Framework

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Population Health Framework

Purpose

1. This report outlines the background to the Population Health Framework (PHF) and seeks feedback from Board members to ensure the PHF reflects the importance of addressing issues affecting children and young people to improve population health outcomes.

Current COSLA Position

2. COSLA Leaders agreed to co-design the Population Health Framework and accompanying action plans in February 2024 with Scottish Government, and alongside key partners Public Health Scotland (PHS) and Directors of Population Health.
3. COSLA has a partnership agreement in place with Public Health Scotland, co-sponsoring the organisation alongside Scottish Government. This partnership reflects both the need for a collaborative, whole-system approach to population health, and the important role Local Government plays in determining population health outcomes through the delivery of essential services.
4. COSLA recognises that population health outcomes in Scotland are failing to improve and requires a change in strategy to reverse concerning trends. Data from the National Records of Scotland shows that after years of stagnation, more people are dying prematurely and spending more time in ill health since even before the onset of the pandemic, particularly in our most vulnerable communities. In addition, the impacts of Covid-19 and the ongoing cost of living crisis have been felt unevenly across communities, resulting in a widening gap in healthy life expectancy between the poorest and wealthiest.
5. [The Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report for 2022-23](#) outlined further and concurrent challenges to population health in Scotland, including the climate emergency, which is already affecting health and wellbeing.

What is Changing?

6. COSLA and Scottish Government are co-designing the Population Health Framework to address this serious and complex issue through a long-term, cross-government and cross-sector approach focused on primary prevention. This means preventing problems before they arise by addressing the primary drivers of population health. In alignment with research by the [King's Fund](#), the four key 'primary preventions drivers' of population health are: social and economic factors place and communities, healthy living, and equitable health and care. It is important to note that social and economic factors [bear more importance](#) than health services on health outcomes as it is more effective to prevent ill health than it is to respond to it.

7. The Engagement Document (Appendix A) outlines the purpose and scope of the PHF and raises potential questions for discussion. This document is not a draft of the PHF, but rather intends to guide discussion to support the content development of the Framework. It is important to assess whether this document raises the right questions and if it is focused on the right areas.
8. A fundamental question for the success of realising these ambitions to improve population health is, “*what will make this work any different from that which has come before?*” The Engagement Document raises further questions related to the overall approach and implementation of the PHF (p. 25) as proposed through the guiding principles of prevention, supporting the most vulnerable, changing systems and environments and working as a whole-system.
9. As part of the engagement process, COSLA convened a Local Government Roundtable on the PHF on 26th September. This facilitated feedback from professional associations, including ADES, in order to strengthen the Local Government input in the development of the Framework.


Proposed COSLA Position

10. This paper does not seek to alter the position agreed by Leaders but is intended to ensure the widest possible views from members are recorded, in this case reflecting the importance of viewing population health through the lens of children and young people. The views expressed by this Board will be used to inform the ongoing development of the PHF with Scottish Government and our partners.

Next Steps

11. Following discussion and feedback by the Board, the stakeholder engagement process will continue with the Population Health Framework being presented to COSLA’s Community Wellbeing Board in October for further feedback.
12. The Population Health Framework will be drafted in November with the intention to refine and publish in December. There are various approval points including COSLA’s Health and Social Care Board and COSLA Leaders in November. In addition, the PHF will be taken to the Scottish Government’s Place and Wellbeing Programme Board and Care and Wellbeing Portfolio Board which both have representation from COSLA officers. The PHF will be formally signed off by COSLA’s Health and Social Care Spokesperson and the Minister for Public Health and Women’s Health.

Contribution to agreed COSLA Plan and Verity House Agreement:

<p>COSLA Plan 22-27</p> 	<p>Priority Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen Local Democracy <input type="checkbox"/> Secure Sustainable Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Improve the Wellbeing of Individuals, Families and Communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Education and Support for Children and Young People <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deliver a Just Transition to a Net Zero Economy <input type="checkbox"/> Support the Most Vulnerable in our Communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Verity House Agreement</p>	<p>Shared Priorities</p>

	Tackling Poverty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Just transition to net zero	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sustainable Public Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>