

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	23 August 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Public Health Scotland / North East Population Health Alliance Strategic Partnership Agreement
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/23/273
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Martin Murchie
REPORT AUTHOR	Martin Murchie
TERMS OF REFERENCE	24.5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Council's endorsement for the signing of a strategic partnership agreement between Public Health Scotland (PHS) and Aberdeen City Council, as one of nine organisations comprising the North East Population Health Alliance (NEPHA).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:-

- 2.1 agree that Aberdeen City Council be a signatory to the strategic partnership agreement.
- 2.2 request the Chief Executive to provide the Council with an annual progress report on the strategic partnership agreement.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The aim and purpose of the strategic partnership agreement is to develop a learning system to improve population health and reduce health inequalities across the North East of Scotland.
- 3.2 The draft agreement (appendix A) outlines a shared vision, value of the partnership, how the organisations will work together within the remit of the agreement, and high-level objectives which give an indication of areas the agreement will focus on.

Situation

- 3.3 Scotland continues to face significant population health challenges: stalling (and in some groups falling) healthy life expectancy, and pre-pandemic widening levels of inequality, further exacerbated by Covid-19. Additionally, the

pandemic has further increased demand on health and care services. Improving health requires improved system sustainability and, even more critically, improved outcomes in the wider factors that create health – good early years, learning, jobs, income and supportive communities.

- 3.4 The recent Health Foundation report ‘Leave no one behind’ emphasises the need for collective action. Specifically, to effect impactful change to tackle inequalities will require practical up and downstream collaboration and action across all parts of the delivery system, and from the public.

Background

- 3.5 We are fortunate to have strong partnerships across public agencies, private and third sectors and communities in the North East. However, as set out above, some of the population health challenges we are grappling with are significant and worsening.
- 3.6 The DPH Annual report 2022 sets out four key threats to population health and action we can collectively take together to break the cycle of widening health inequalities. The report recognises the strength of our partnerships and highlights where we are already working well together to tackle these challenges. However, greater action is required.
- 3.7 In response to these significant population health challenges and to reverse current trends, public sector leaders from across the North East have considered how we can create a system of public health learning to reverse current trends. This is referred to as the North East Population Health Alliance (NEPHA). Recognising that systems of governance are firmly embedded within and across our organisations already, the NEPHA is instead intended as an action learning forum for exploring challenges together, testing solutions, and bringing together our collective knowledge with data and evidence to enable more powerful conversations and effective action. The NEPHA currently comprises nine partners; NHS Grampian, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership, Moray Council, Health & Social Care Moray, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and Police Scotland.
- 3.8 Public Health Scotland has a leadership role in, and contributes to, all of Scotland’s public health priorities and will focus on three areas: preventing disease, prolonging healthy life, and promoting health and wellbeing.
- 3.9 Public Health Scotland’s Strategic Plan sets out a clear commitment to collaborative working in recognition that no one organisation or profession can address Scotland’s public health challenge.

Assessment

- 3.10 The aim of this agreement is to share expertise and collaborate where there is added value to doing so, for the benefit of the people of the North East of Scotland. The agreement provides an opportunity to align the collective ambition of the NEPHA with the strategic aims of Public Health Scotland.

The agreement aims to facilitate collaboration between PHS and the NEPHA (comprising the nine respective organisations) to share and learn about key issues to build on our collective knowledge, share insights and use our collective capacity to improve population health outcomes. Specifically, the shared objective of the agreement is to improve population health and reduce inequalities across the North East of Scotland.

As the partnership matures, our work together will inevitably change. Following assessment of need, PHS and NEPHA (comprising the respective nine organisations) will agree shared priorities. In year one, six high-level themes will be explored with a view to developing more detailed objectives over the life of the strategic agreement. These are:

- i. Develop a learning system that explores the challenges faced by the North East of Scotland, tests solutions, and implements what works at scale and pace.
 - ii. Form collective knowledge, data, and evidence to shape more powerful collective conversations and action to achieve the vision of thriving communities living fulfilled lives.
 - iii. Developing common data governance and system models to enable findable, accessible, interoperability and reusable data to support research, policy development and operational delivery such as the Persons at Risk Database (PARD) and local use of common identifiers, including CHI.
 - iv. Collaboration on the commissioning and conduct of research on the wider determinants of health across the north east and the application of knowledge to practice locally and nationally.
 - v. Development of a baseline of prevention activity within the region with a view to establishing some targets for growth in activity.
 - vi. Child poverty, the Drugs Mission and the eradication of homelessness will appear in detailed work plan because the commitment is established at a national and local level, and therefore we can maximise the tripartite collaboration on the achievement of these commitments.
- 3.11 The agreement is currently out for review and sign off by late summer 2023 across the respective governance structures of the organisations comprising the NEPHA. During this time the agreement is subject to minor amendments as it moved through organisational approval processes. A final version comprising all feedback will be shared with all organisations once the process of signing off has concluded.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The strategic partnership is a voluntary arrangement and, as such, there are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

7. RISK

7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	None	N/A	-	Yes
Compliance	None	N/A	-	Yes
Operational	None	N/A	-	Yes
Financial	None	N/A	-	Yes
Reputational	None	N/A	-	Yes
Environment / Climate	None	N/A	-	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024</u>	
Impact of Report	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	The partnership seeks to maximise collaboration which will support multiple Policy Statement commitments to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of residents of our city.
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	As indicated in the report, as the partnership matures, its work will change in line with assessment of need. This will generate agreed shared priorities. A number e.g. child poverty, the drugs Mission and the eradication of homelessness have already been identified. These, and whichever future shared priorities are agreed will fully support the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	
Regional and City Strategies	The strategic partnership will support the broad range of Council and shared strategies, most

	specifically the Children’s Services Plan, Local Housing Strategy, Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Skills Strategy.
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9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 [Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022](#)

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – NEPHA PHS Strategic Partnership Agreement Draft V1.6

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