

Submitted to A consultation on a new National Public Health body: 'Public Health Scotland'

Submitted on 2019-07-08 14:30:41

Questions

1 Do you have any general comments on this overview of the new arrangements for public health?

Give your comments below::

The new model will have to contend with partners who each have their own agenda and plans for the resources at their disposal. Financial constraints will mean that the body might not achieve as much as is hoped. A lot depends upon how well each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) works. Some will obviously have better relationships than others between the partners and, to a large extent, this will be driven by the individual agendas of each of the partners and their individual priorities. Engaging communities which currently feel excluded or underrepresented will be a challenge.

We agree that it should be a distinct organisation with the autonomy to advise and support government, local authorities and the NHS in a professionally independent manner.

Is the intention that staff employed in Health Protection Scotland, Information Services Division and NHS Health Scotland form the basis of the new organisation? If so, a degree of retraining will be required. If not, what are the plans for these staff?

2a What are your views on the general governance and accountability arrangements?

Give your comments below::

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2b How can the vision for shared leadership and accountability between national and local government best be realised?

Give your comments below::

This will be difficult as there will be differences in priorities between local councils as well as between national and local government.

3a What are your views on the arrangements for local strategic planning and delivery of services for the public's health?

Give your comments below::

The arrangements seem appropriate as long as sufficient resources are available.

3b How can Public Health Scotland supplement or enhance these arrangements?

Give your comments below::

Depending upon how independent they are, they can advocate for local areas in discussions with both national and local government on issues which are not getting the priority they should.

4 What are your views on the role Public Health Scotland could have to better support communities to participate in decisions that affect their health and wellbeing?

Give your comments below::

PHS could enable communities to improve their input by passing on details of how other communities influence public health in their areas. Often poorer communities are disadvantaged by not being able to argue/lobby at the same level as more affluent communities.

5a Do you agree that Public Health Scotland should become a community planning partner under Part 2 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015?

Yes

5b Do you agree that Public Health Scotland should become a public service authority under Part 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, who can receive participation requests from community participation bodies?

Yes

5c Do you have any further comments?

Give your comments below::

No

6a What are your views on the information governance arrangements?

Give your comments below::

These appear appropriate and are similar to those employed by ISD.

6b How might the data and intelligence function be strengthened?

Give your comments below::

There is a wealth of information held locally in community pharmacy. Enabling this to be connected to other NHS systems to mutual benefit would, in turn, improve the data available to PHS.

7a What suggestions do you have in relation to performance monitoring of the new model for public health in Scotland?

Give your comments below::

Simply using the average longevity of populations as an indicator is a very imprecise indicator. Social and deprivation indices must be factored in as well as factors which are specific to individual areas e.g. industrial disease due to heavy industry legacy.

7b What additional outcomes and performance indicators might be needed?

Give your comments below::

Additional indicators could focus on different age ranges and see if improvement is being achieved with young people as they grow up.

8 What are your views on the functions to be delivered by Public Health Scotland?

Give your comments below::

The list of functions seems fairly comprehensive.

9a What are your views on the health protection functions to be delivered by Public Health Scotland?

Give your comments below::

Health Protection Scotland provides strong health protection. If HPS is being absorbed into PHS, all functions should be transferred.

9b What more could be done to strengthen the health protection functions?

Give your comments below::

PHS must ensure that transferring staff and not spread too thinly and given other areas of responsibility which will reduce their ability to maintain the strong health protection.

10 Would new senior executive leadership roles be appropriate for the structure of Public Health Scotland?

Don't know

If so, what should they be? :

11 What other suggestions do you have for the organisational structure for Public Health Scotland to allow it to fulfil its functions as noted in chapter 5?

Give your comments below::

Given that the vast majority staff within the demitting organisations will be on Agenda for Change terms and conditions, we fail to see why TUPE might be necessary.

12 What are your views on the proposed location for the staff and for the headquarters of Public Health Scotland?

Give your comments below::

It would make sense to use the existing estate; realising that changes may be required in future.

13 Are the professional areas noted in Chapter 8 appropriate to allow the Board of Public Health Scotland to fulfil its functions?

Yes

Give your comments below: :

The listed professional areas seem appropriate

14a What are your views on the size and make-up of the Board?

Give your comments below::

The proposals seem reasonable.

14b How should this reflect the commitment to shared leadership and accountability to Scottish Ministers and COSLA?

Give your comments below::

15 What are your views on the arrangements for data science and innovation?

Give your comments below::

The proposals seem reasonable.

16 What are your views on the arrangements in support of the transition process?

Give your comments below::

The proposals seem reasonable.

17a What impact on equalities do you think the proposals outlined in this paper may have on different sectors of the population and the staff of Public Health Scotland?

Give your comments below::

No comment

17b If applicable, what mitigating action should be taken?

Give your comments below::

18 What are your views regarding the impact that the proposals in this paper may have on the important contribution to be made by businesses and the third sector?

Give your comments below::

No comment

About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is your email address?

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:
Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: