

ScotPHN Team Bulletin – 019

Welcome to the nineteenth 'ScotPHN team' bulletin.

Please read, cascade and respond [via email](#), as appropriate and as time allows. We also welcome notification of potential content/information for future bulletins.

Key National COVID-19 updates

Public Health Scotland (PHS) COVID-19 Dashboards

Public Health Scotland have recently undertaken work to update its COVID-19 reporting. Changes are reflected as of 28 of July on the COVID-19 Daily Dashboard.

These provide better identification of cases, and linkage to other sources such as deaths and hospital admissions following a positive test.

- Access the data and intelligence via the enhanced PHS [dashboards](#).

COVID-19 Inquiry

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has affected every country in the world, and its impact has been unprecedented. The first case in Scotland was recorded in March 2020. Work is underway to establish a public inquiry to investigate the handling of the pandemic in Scotland.

- [Find out more about the aims and principles of the inquiry on the Scottish Government website](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19): reopening of cultural performances and events guidance

Guidance for the reopening of cultural performances and events sector was published from the Scottish Government on 18 August 2021.

- [Read the guidance](#)

Scottish Government COVID-19 Recovery Consultation

This Scottish Government consultation focuses on reviewing the legislative powers that have supported the response to COVID-19. It begins with discussion of the ambitions for Covid recovery and ends with an open question, to invite comments on the action that respondents think is required to support a fair, safe and secure recovery.

- [Read more about the consultation and respond](#) – Closing Date 09 November 2021

Scottish COVID-19 Contact Tracing Programme

Weekly updates are now available from the Tracing Programme. Further information can be found on the [PHS website](#) or to receive weekly, Monday updates, contact PHS.COVID-19ContactTracingProgramme@phs.scot

Public Health Scotland updates

Angiolina Foster CBE announced as new Chair of Public Health Scotland

Maree Todd MSP, the Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport, and Councillor Stuart Currie, COSLA Health and Social Care Spokesperson, have announced the appointment of Angiolina Foster CBE as the new chair of Public Health Scotland's Board.

- [View the public appointments news release](#)

Service update for Healthy Working Lives and healthyliving awards

Further to the recent letter from Public Health Scotland to Directors of Public Health.

Given the continued fluid situation across Health Boards and within Public Health Scotland as we respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, discussions took place with the Healthy Working Lives Implementation Group and, as a result, a decision has been taken to further put award registrations, assessment visits and quality assurance visits on hold until March 2022.

All existing award holders will retain their award at the current level until further notice.

Both awards criteria provide useful frameworks for organisations to follow as a journey through improving staff and client health.

The [HWL website](#) is being maintained to ensure that information is correct and supports communications for employers around COVID-19. The [healthyliving award website](#) is also available with information to assist clients.

For organisations seeking support with Healthy Working Lives activities, Public Health Scotland is encouraging direct access to Health Board teams where they are

available and able to offer support at this time. Please use our [services update page](#) on the HWL website for more details.

Further Public Health Updates

NHS Recovery Plan – Scottish Government

The NHS Recovery Plan sets out key ambitions and actions to be developed and delivered now and over the next 5 years in order to address the backlog in care and meet ongoing healthcare needs for people across Scotland.

- [Read the plan](#) as published 25/08/2021

Women's Health Plan – Scottish Government

The Women's Health Plan underpins actions to improve women's health inequalities by raising awareness around women's health, improving access to health care and reducing inequalities in health outcomes for girls and women, both for sex-specific conditions and in women's general health.

- [Read the full plan](#) as published 20/08/2021

Whole School Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing – Scottish Government

The national Mental Health in Schools Working Group, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, has produced a framework to support local authorities and schools embed support for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing across all aspects of the school environment. The framework provides guidance on approaches that can be undertaken; it is not intended to be a prescriptive guide. It can be used by schools to complement or strengthen existing approaches in place recognising that many schools have already undertaken a significant amount of work in this area.

- [Access and share the framework](#)

Integrating land use planning and public health in Scotland - Improvement Service

The Improvement Service has published a briefing; 'Place and Wellbeing: integrating land use planning and public health in Scotland'. The briefing supports collaborative working between public health and land use planning and raises awareness of the impact that the places where people live, work and play have on their health and wellbeing.

It also provides practical guidance for land use planners, public health practitioners and policy makers to work together, using a whole systems approach to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. It introduces land use planners to the public health system and public health professionals to the planning system and outlines a number of key opportunities for more integrated working to realise shared ambitions.

It sets out four key messages crucial to improving policy and practice in land use planning for health and wellbeing:

- ✓ Stronger together through improved collaboration
- ✓ Shared evidence leading to shared policy actions
- ✓ Shared policy actions leading to shared outcomes
- ✓ Building crucial relationships and exchanging knowledge

➤ [Read the key messages in full and share the briefing](#)

COVID-19 green and open space use (Wave 3) report - University of Glasgow

The MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit at the University of Glasgow has published a report on behalf of the Public Health Scotland Social & Systems Recovery (S&SR) Environment & Spaces Group, which brings together Scottish Government, local authorities, the NHS, the third sector and other professionals involved in environment and planning policy implementation.

The 'COVID-19 green and open space use in Spring 2021 (Wave 3) report' highlights the inequalities presented in the access to and use of greenspace within the Scottish population.

The report has shown that there were sharp inequalities in visiting green and open space in spring 2021, preventing some people from experiencing the mental health benefits associated with use of outdoor space. It found that over two thirds of adults (67%) had visited a green or open space during the previous four weeks. However, only 59% of those classified as low socio-economic status visited compared to 73% from a high socio-economic status.

Ali McDonald, Organisational Lead for Healthy, Active Environments at PHS met the findings with a positive outlook; 'The report has valuable and useful information for those involved in local decision making about how greenspace can be incorporated into developments to improve local environments and community wellbeing.'

➤ [Access the full report](#)

Active commuting/daily physical activity guidelines research - University of Edinburgh

Using the 2001 and 2011 Censuses this study aims to estimate the number of pedestrian and cycling commuters in Scotland who achieve the daily physical activity guideline through their commute and the health economic value of active commuting using the WHO HEAT tool. Study findings include:

- Active modes of commuting accounted for 14.5% of commutes in 2011
- Active commuting can play an important role in achieving recommended levels of physical activity (PA) with 50% of active commuters met 30 min/day of activity through their commute in 2011.
- The annual health economic benefit of active commuting in Scotland in 2011 was over EUR 0.75 billion; this split into EUR 700.2 million annual health benefit for walking to work and EUR 79.8 million for cycling to work.

The estimates of health economic value are based solely on reductions in mortality associated with regular walking and cycling and do not take account of the health economic value of reduced morbidity. And these are likely to be conservative estimates of the full health economic benefits.

The paper also contains local authority level tables with estimates of the proportion of pedestrian and cycling commuters achieving the PA guideline and the health economic value of reduced mortality in 2001 and in 2011.

- [Access the full Edinburgh University paper](#)

Sustrans – 3 newly published reports

- Cycle City Ambition programme - final evaluation report
Sustrans (with Transport for Quality of Life and Technopolis) evaluated the Cycle City Ambition programme in England for the Department for Transport. The final evaluation report ('summary and synthesis of evidence') has been published by DfT. The eight cities and city regions funded by the CCA programme between 2013 and 2018 are Birmingham, Cambridge, Greater Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Oxford, West of England and West Yorkshire. £191m was invested through the programme. The report provides current and comprehensive update to evidence base on the effectiveness of investing in cycling. Access the report [here](#)
- Understanding the barriers and enablers to active travel in mid-life
Sustrans (working with Adrian Davis and Nick Cavill) has been commissioned by the Centre for Ageing Better (a What Works Centre) to do a piece of work seeking to understand the barriers and enablers to active travel in mid-life. There are two phases to this work – an evidence review, and some qualitative work to further build the evidence. The first phase, the evidence review, is now published (Summary report [here](#) / Full report [here](#)). This work shows us that walking and cycling are 'not safe or attractive enough' for many in their

50s and 60s. It draws together the evidence base on active travel and ageing for the first time. The second phase of the work is due to be published in Sept or Oct.

- Review of the 'co-development' or 'supported bidding' process used for the Transforming Cities Fund
Sustrans (with the University of the West of England, Transport for Quality of Life and the University of Westminster) is contracted to evaluate the Transforming Cities Fund in England for the Department for Transport. A series of case studies will be produced throughout the project lifespan. The first of these case studies, examining the 'co-development' or 'supported bidding' process that was used by DfT to enable local authorities/combined authorities to access the funding, is published. Case Study 1 can be found [here](#).

NHS Highland Prisons - Healthcare Needs Assessment (HCNA)

NHS Highland has published a Health and Healthcare Needs Assessment on Inverness Prison. The assessment takes into consideration the healthcare requirements for those at Inverness Prison, many of which are relevant to the broader public health considerations in Scotland.

This publication is been dedicated to Alexander Hamilton, a great-admired colleague by all those who worked alongside him.

[Access the HCNA publication here](#)

Children's Rights and UNCRC eLearning - The STTS Project and Children In Scotland

Children In Scotland have teamed up with the Third Sector Interface Network to offer an e-module introductory learning on Children's Rights and UNCRC. It is free to access.

- [Access the Children in Scotland eLearning Hub to register for module access](#) and a range of other online programmes in collaboration with organisations/services across Scotland's children's sector.

COSLA – Elected Members Briefing Series

COSLA publish regular Elected Members briefings on their website. Information is prepared and openly available via the COSLA website.

- [See an example of a recent COSLA Elected Member briefing from July 2021](#)

Virtual Events and Campaigns

The Big Step – a walk to remember every life lost to gambling

Date: 10/09/2021 - 30/09/2021

Location: various as below

Research tells us that 4 to 11 percent of suicides are related to gambling, the equivalent of up to 650 deaths a year in the UK. That's a minimum of one every working day.

Gambling with Lives was set up by the families and friends of young people who had taken their own lives as a direct result of gambling. To mark World Suicide Prevention Day this year, people can walk in remembrance of each life lost to gambling and to raise awareness of The Big Step campaign, which aims to kick gambling advertising out of football.

The Big Step is encouraging walkers to complete any distance (in one go or in stages) between the 10th and 30th September. If you are able, and live close enough, you may want to walk to a football club that uses football sponsorships on their shirts and share/tag a photo picture to support The Big Step campaign via their social media or [via email](#).

- Facebook - @thebigstepdotcom
 - Twitter - @the_bigstep
 - Instagram - @the_bigstep
- [Contact The Big Step Campaign and/or register a walk in remembrance of a life lost to gambling](#)

NHS Scotland Sustainability Conference 2021

Date: Wednesday 10 November 2021
Time: 9am to 4pm GMT
Platform: Eventsforce VCD & Microsoft Teams

In November 2021, the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) will bring parties together in Glasgow to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on

Climate Change. This year's NHSScotland Sustainability Conference will take place on the 10 November to coincide with the COP26 Summit. This virtual event will provide NHS staff with an opportunity to hear from some of the speakers involved, and to understand more about the impacts and role of the NHS – and the innovations already taking place on the journey to net-zero and a more holistically sustainable health and social care system.

Ahead of COP26, negotiations and talks are happening around the world to promote the goals of the conference. You can find out more information on COP26, including the latest updates, from many sources including:

- [The official COP26 website](#)
 - [GOV.UK's pages on COP26](#)
 - [Met Office Twitter](#) and [#MetOfficeCOP26](#)
- [Access more conference information and registration link](#)

UK Climate Risk Independent Assessment (CCRA3) 2021 – Adaption Scotland/Sniffer

Date: Tuesday 21 September

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Platform: online

In June 2021, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) published the latest independent assessment of climate change risks and opportunities for the UK, required by the UK Climate Change Act every five years.

Following this, the CCC is convening a 'deep-dive' event in partnership with Sniffer and colleagues from Scottish Government, which will:

- Provide an overview of the climate risks in Scotland.
- Give examples of activity that can help to address these risks.
- Provide an opportunity to discuss the findings, their implications for Government and next steps.

During this interactive session, you will hear about what the latest scientific evidence tells us about vulnerability and exposure to weather-related hazards in Scotland, what is being done about it, and what needs to happen now. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and network.

- [Register to attend the event](#)
- [Access the full UKCCRA3 reports](#)

Webinar: Integrating land use planning and public health

Date: Thursday 26 September 2021

Time: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Online Webinar

The Improvement Service and Public Health Scotland have recently published a briefing on "[Place and Wellbeing: integrating land use planning and public health in Scotland](#)". The briefing raises awareness of the impact that the places where people live, work and play have on their health and wellbeing. It provides practical guidance for land use planners, public health practitioners and policy makers to work together, using a whole systems approach to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. This webinar will introduce the briefing and the opportunities for collaboration that it is designed to support. We will also hear from colleagues in spatial planning and public health about how they have worked together in practice and there will be time for Q&A with the panel.

- [Register now](#)

Green Prescribing 'Policy to Practice' - The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare

Recordings and learning resources are now live from the past Centre for Sustainable Healthcare event on 'Green Prescribing for Sustainable Healthcare: from policy to practice'

- [Access the recordings and resources](#)

If you're interested in learning more about Green Space and Health, the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare have an upcoming course on September 16th that delves into the evidence, showcases examples of green prevention and therapy, and demonstrates how you can integrate these into your own practice.

- [Access further course information](#)

Public Health Scotland Recruitment

All current Public Health Scotland vacancies (external recruitment) are searchable via the [NHS Scotland National Recruitment portal](#).

Two posts are currently advertised within the ScotPHN Team.

Job Title: [Business Manager](#)

Salary: Band 6 (£33,072 - £40,736)

Location: Glasgow/Edinburgh

Term: Permanent

Hours: 37.5

Department: Scottish Public Health Network

Closing Date: 02/09/2021

Job Title: [Team Coordinator](#)

Salary: Band 4 (£23,709 - £25,982)

Location: Glasgow/Edinburgh

Term: Permanent

Hours: 18.75

Department: Scottish Public Health Network

Closing Date: 02/09/2021

ScotPHN Contact:

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- National Special Interest Groups Inbox: psh.sig@psh.scot
- [ScotPHN website](#)
- Twitter - @ScotPHN or for environmental sustainability issues @SMASH_ScotPHN

Take care

Public Health Scotland- ScotPHN Team