



Your Moray

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 7 AUGUST 2008

SUBJECT: EQUALLY WELL (HEALTH INEQUALITIES TEST SITE)

BY: MORAY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The reason for this report is to allow the Board to consider participation of Moray as an Equally Well (Health Inequalities) test site

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board consider the participation of Moray as a test site around the issue of Health Inequalities and if the Board agrees to participate to prepare a bid for inclusion as a test site.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Government issued a report of the Health Inequalities task group entitled "Equally Well" it has identified that: "Health inequalities remain a significant challenge in Scotland. **(Executive Summary attached as Appendix 1*)**The poorest in our society die earlier and have higher rates of disease, including mental illness. Healthy life expectancy needs to be increased across the board to achieve the Scottish Government's overall purpose of sustainable economic growth. Tackling health inequalities requires action from national and local government and from other agencies including the NHS, schools, employers and Third Sector."
- 3.2 Priority areas identified by the report are as follows; children, particularly in the early years, "killer diseases" such as heart disease, mental health and the harm caused by drugs, alcohol and violence.

- Copy of full report is available on the Scottish Government website at <http://openscotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/229649/0062206.pdf>

- 3.3 The report is clear that radical cross-cutting action is needed to address Scotland's health gap to benefit its citizens, communities and the country as a whole”.
- 3.4 The Government wishes to establish a number of test sites to demonstrate the application of the Task Force recommendations. Test sites will select a focus from the Task forces priorities and will “improve client pathways through between and out of a range of public services.
- 3.5 Test sites will need to meet certain criteria they are:
- That they must have senior local leadership and support from champions in each key agency involved;
 - Reflect local needs and priorities;
 - Adopt the task force approach (outlined in the document);
 - Be evidenced based and open to fresh ideas from elsewhere;
 - Base improvements to services on what client needs and frontline staff can, and want to, deliver;
 - Focus on outcomes relevant to health inequalities, in line with the Task Forces recommendations;
 - Manage sustainable redesign of services within existing legal budgets; and
 - Feed into the Task Force review of progress in 2010.
- 3.6 The Government have outlined the nature of support that they will provide and resource on offer to test sites and this includes:
- Evidence and knowledge on health inequalities and possible solutions, from Scotland and further afield;
 - Information from potential practice developments from current strategies, standards and workforce approaches;
 - Methods for engaging communities and individual clients;
 - Effective data collection and analysis and this includes promoting the sharing of information across agencies;
 - Application of continuous improvement techniques, where these are identified as helpful;
 - Evaluating and assessment of health inequalities and other outcomes for clients. New evaluation approaches will need to be developed in line with task force recommendation 73 on evaluation of complex interventions;
 - Identifying longer-term resource implications and where nationally-led changes are required for maximum impact;
 - Possible models for management arrangements to support service design.
- 3.7 The Government will establish a Learning Network and are running a 24-hour initial engagement even in October 2008 to look at the Task Force approach and will explore the support needs of senior local leadership in the test site areas.

- 3.8 The Government and COSLA will jointly select test sites. These sites will reflect different types of area, themes and agency groupings. The Government are inviting areas across Scotland to present a short written proposal by 1 September 2008 to demonstrate how they would meet the criteria, in particular identifying senior leadership support within the key collaborating agencies.

4 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans

The Community Plan has an objective of “reducing health inequalities by targeting resources to disadvantaged areas”. The Single Outcome Agreement has, under National Outcome 6, a commitment to “continue to improve the health of people and sustain long term change by preventing or reducing health inequalities”.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Ministerial Task Force on health inequalities will be the basis for Government Policy on tackling health inequalities. COSLA has been fully involved in the development of the report and had given its full commitment to delivering on this agenda.

(c) Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)

The Government has made it clear that service change in test sites will be managed within existing resources.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Board is invited to consider participation as an Equally Well’ test site and, if it agrees, to prepare a submission requesting participation to the Government and COSLA.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: