



Glasgow City Region

Cabinet

Report by Jo Winterbottom, Organisational Lead for Regional Economies and Health

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GCR Collaboration with Public Health Scotland: update on progress

Purpose of report:

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the impact and the learning from the PHS/GCR Collaboration with a view to informing the development of future programmes of work on regional economies and health.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is invited to:

- a) note progress; and
- b) endorse proposed next steps.

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the impact and the learning from the PHS/GCR Collaboration with a view to informing the development of future programmes of work on regional economies and health.

2. Progress Report

Background

- 2.1 The PHS/GCR collaboration began with the PHS Director of Place and Wellbeing joining the GCR Regional Partnership in November 2020. Subsequent discussions led to the creation of a full-time public health post (Organisational Lead), funded by PHS and embedded within the GCR PMO team, and the development of a regional funding bid to the Health Foundation.
- 2.2 The ambitions for the collaboration were agreed by the Glasgow City Region Cabinet in February 2021¹ and the embedded Organisational Lead took up post in May 2021. A full report on progress is attached as an Appendix.
- 2.3 The aims for the programme were as follows:
- **EMBED** - Maximise the influence PHS can have on economic decision making, initially, to support the development of Glasgow City Region's economic strategy such that it best supports the outcomes of improved health and reduced health inequalities
 - **LEARN** - Develop an understanding of partnership needs in this area and the added value that PHS can bring in order to help PHS develop its ways of working and work programme
 - **TRANSLATE AND ROLL OUT** - Improve health and reduce health inequalities by facilitating more effective working arrangements with, and providing advice and support to, regional economic partnerships

Progress

- 2.4 Under the first aim (EMBED) progress has been made in relation to a number of objectives:
- **Regional Economic Strategy** –GCR RES highlights health as a key transformational opportunity to address the Region's Grand Challenges with specific actions identified to address the socio-economic determinants of health.
 - **Health Impact Assessment** – PHS has played a key role in the delivery of the Health Foundation funded Economies for Healthier Lives Project as well as developing an integrated approach to impact assessment screening for GCR activity.
 - **Data and Metrics** – operating in a busy landscape, work has focussed on keeping abreast of developments in relation to a number of indicator sets and making effective links between the Intelligence Hub and the work of the SPHER Consortium via the PHS Embedded Researcher.

¹ [GCR Cabinet Paper: Public Health Scotland Collaboration and Funding Bid](#)

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- **Research and Evaluation**- contributions have been made to a number of pieces of research and evaluation work and groundwork undertaken to commission work to address intelligence gaps for RES programmes.
- **Whole Region Approach**- joint working has been facilitated in relation to child poverty, facilitating links across a number of agencies and work to address the cost-of-living crisis.
- **Leadership, Engagement and Connectivity** – a key feature of the work, this has been essential in enabling mutual understanding of health and GCR structures and facilitating links to contacts and information.
- **Governance and Evaluation** – the necessary arrangements were put in place to enable effective operation of the embedded post and the collaboration has been evaluated in relation to the eight characteristics of effective collaborations²

2.5 There has been significant learning captured under the following themes:

- **Navigating Complexity** – the challenges of working in a sometimes cluttered and ever-changing environment have been significant and on occasions, the main achievement has been to hold a steady course.
- **Relationships** – strong relationships have been central as progress has often hinged on personal interest and commitment manifesting in a coalition of the willing
- **Policy Windows**- “Health in All Policies” can be achieved through a number of policy windows, depending on priorities at a particular time (e.g. Inclusive Growth, Community Wealth Building). Ensuring a common understanding of language and terminology across disciplines is an essential starting point.
- **Potential Levers** – Levers for change emerge and can be identified at different levels. On the surface this might mean responding to immediate pressures. However longer-term transformational change requires structural changes and a shift in mental models
- **Approaches** – Provision of data and intelligence and health impact assessment are tangible starting points that can open doors to activity at greater depth. Longer term approaches include policy alignment and facilitation.
- **Reflection and Review** – Making time to reflect on and review activity and impact enables continuous learning and improvement. A semi-formal arrangement with an objective sounding board makes this more likely to happen.

3. Proposed Next Steps

- 3.1 The learning to date will be shared through a series of dissemination activities. This includes a webinar hosted by SHRED planned for 19/05/23 with panel members including the GCR Director for Regional Economic Growth, Scottish Government Regional Economic Policy Unit and PHS Director of Strategy, Governance and Performance. In addition, dissemination opportunities will be identified through existing networks and the new Improving Health and Reducing Inequalities Combined Authorities Programme³, which has been expanded to a wider range of geographies in England, enabling greater engagement between and within regions and politically.
- 3.2 PHS will embed the Regional Economies and Health work within a broader PHS Wellbeing Economy programme.

² [8 characteristics of effective collaborations \(pcdn.co\)](https://pcdn.co/8-characteristics-of-effective-collaborations)

³ [Improving Health and Reducing Inequalities Combined Authorities Programme](#)

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- 3.3 Opportunities for further development will be identified through the implementation of the Scottish Government Regional Policy review. This will include working to achieve Health in All Policies at a regional level and harnessing the potential of any future funding and investment that may be routed through regional economic partnerships.
- 3.4 Further to initial contacts already made, scoping work will be undertaken to explore the extent to which other regional economic partnerships reference health inequalities in regional strategies and are engaged with local public health teams. Noting that each regional economic partnership is different, where feasible, the approach developed in GCR will be tested and refined in other geographies.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Cabinet is invited to:
 - a) note progress; and
 - b) endorse proposed next steps.