

## NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Conference 2019

### “Developing Sustainable Health Partnerships”

1 November 2019

Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh

### Our Role in International Public Health – Rethinking our Strategic Approach

#### Workshop Outline

International development is a key part of Scotland's global contribution within the international community, embodying our values of fairness and equality. The formation of Public Health Scotland, a new national public health body for Scotland in 2020 will provide public health with an opportunity to rethink our role within the International Public Health community and our contribution to the NHS Global Citizenship agenda.

We need to think about what our priorities should be and how we can contribute to this agenda. To help us meet the challenge we need partners on board every step of the way. This workshop will provide delegates with the opportunity to shape our views moving forward into the new organisation.

#### Introduction (Eileen Scott)

Main points:

- Public health is the art and science of preventing disease. Focuses on interventions delivered at a population level, not individual.
- Social determinants of health
  - Economic climate e.g. Child poverty
  - Access to a job
  - Access to an education
  - Gender inequalities
  - Housing
  - Water, heating and electricity
- WHO – main challenges are connected to social determinants of health.
- Burden of ageing population
- Scotland has lowest life expectancy in Europe – largely driven by socioeconomic inequality. Gaps in life expectancy can be 34 years from one area to the next
  - Linked to:
    - alcohol
    - substance misuse
    - access to services
    - poverty
- Although there are pockets of international public health activity, we need engagement from all regions.

#### Team Discussions

**How can we all individually increase our public health activity so that we can collectively make a difference?**

### **Key Global Health Challenges?**

- Reduced budget and finance to put into other places
- Lack of training
- Vaccine confidence
- Climate change will lead to a lack of resources
- Pollution control

### **What do you think are the opportunities to address these through Global Citizenship agenda?**

- Networking opportunities for interested clinicians to collaborate on different projects
- Public health support for those doing global health work – promote involvement of public health work into their trip
- Share information
- Would be good to develop an organisation for public health, like WHO.
- (Public health wales has done well - proof that it works.)

### **What could public health in Scotland offer?**

- Think about our own impact

### **What would need to happen in Scotland to enable us to ensure that opportunities are taken and maximised?**

- Improve networks and share information

### **Who do we (national public health body) need to connect/engage with?**

- Board lead champions
- Be aware of experiences of social economic deprivation and learn from them i.e. colleagues with experience from different cultures/countries can be a great pool of information

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