

Public Health Scotland Board

Meeting:	Board
Meeting Date:	25 September 2023 (Meeting conducted via Correspondence)
Title:	PHS Climate Change and Sustainability Strategic Plan
Paper Number:	27-23
Responsible Director:	Ruth Glassborow, Director of Place and Wellbeing
Report Author:	Manira Ahmad, Chief Officer

1. Introduction

1.1 Public Health Scotland's Strategic Approach to Climate and Sustainability 2023 – 2026 is presented to the Board for approval by correspondence,

2. Purpose and Recommendations

2.1 The Strategic Approach, presented in draft to the Board on 16 August 2023, has been revised (details listed below under key points) following feedback from the Board and our co-sponsors, the Scottish Government and COSLA.

2.2 Colleagues from Scottish Government, COSLA and Sustainable Scotland Network were afforded an opportunity, as 'critical friends', to review the revised document to identify any significant errors or omissions prior to finalisation.

2.3 To comply with our Public Sector Bodies responsibilities, the document is presented in an accessibility template.

2.4 The Strategic Approach commits PHS to 41 high level actions from 2023 through to 2026, across three focus areas to support delivery of our, and our co-sponsors', climate and sustainability ambitions.

2.5 A time bound co-ordinated action plan and outcome framework to sit beneath the Strategic Approach is in development. This offers flexibility to add and refine actions across the lifetime of the Strategic Approach in response to emergent needs.

3. Executive Summary/Key Points

3.1 The sub-title has been changed to 'Working together to build a greener, fairer, healthier future' to better reflect the focus on climate, sustainability, population health and equity.

3.2 The climate *and* ecological emergency are explicitly recognised.

3.3 Framing centres on:

3.1.1 Climate as a determinant of health and wellbeing.

3.1.2 The interconnected challenges of climate, population health and equity.

3.1.3 The opportunity to realise population health and equity co-benefits from climate action.

3.1.4 The need to embed climate in all PHS's work to improve and protect population health and reduce inequalities.

3.4 Scotland's population health challenges have been presented in the framework adopted in the CMO's Annual report 2023 to align and amplify a consistent population health and equity message.

3.5 The visibility of Verity House Agreement and Scottish Government's Care and Wellbeing Portfolio have been raised as key vehicles to support delivery of the climate, population health and equity ambitions we share with our co-sponsors.

3.6 The visibility of collaboration and effective partnership working with key partners including Sustainable Scotland Network, Adaptation Scotland, NatureScot and Transport Scotland have been highlighted to support delivery of the Strategic Approach.

3.7 Our three focus areas for action are presented in order of proximity to our focus of control. PHS' public body responsibility > Supporting the NHS Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy and social care partners' climate ambitions > Population Health.

3.8 The content including language used to characterise social care partners' climate ambitions and define our actions in relation to this, was subject to review and agreement with colleagues from Scottish Government and COSLA.

3.9 Several design features have been removed to ensure the document is accessible. Most notably tabulated lists are now bullet pointed or narrative prose.

3.10 Tabulated appendices have been removed as these were not accessible.

3.11 It has not been possible within the permitted time scale to design an accessible infographic mapping our actions to the National Performance Framework and Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Timing

4.1 The Strategic Approach was presented in draft to the Board on 16 August 2023.

4.2 The plan is to release the strategic approach on the 27 Sept at 9:30am (*climate week 26 Sept and 2 Oct*). This will be on our social media platforms and the PHS website.

5. Link to Corporate Objectives/Vital Initiatives

5.1 It is recognised that PHS must embed climate in all the work we do to improve and protect population health and reduce inequalities.

6. Impact Assessment *

a. Health and Wellbeing

b. Equality and Diversity

c. Data Protection

d. Quality / Patient Care

6.1 No specific impact assessment has been completed however information about the impact of this Strategy are detailed in the report.

7. Risk Assessment *

7.1 There is a corporate risk being developed focusing on both the internal and external elements surrounding health inequalities, furthermore the programme is working closely with KPMG colleagues to develop an internal audit process.

8. Financial Implications *

8.1 There are currently no direct financial implications linked to the content of this report .

9. Workforce Implications *

9.1 There are no direct workforce implications linked to the content of this report.

10. Climate Change and Sustainability Implications *

10.1 The content of this report describes PHS's Strategic Approach and how this commits PHS to support delivery of our, and our co-sponsors', climate and sustainability ambitions.

11. Governance Route and Engagement *

11.1 This paper is presented to the Board for approval via correspondence on 25 September 2023.

12. Confirmation of Circulation of Document

12.1 This paper is presented direct to the Board. The approved Strategy will be released on 27 September 2023 on our social media platforms and the PHS website.