**North East Population Health Alliance Update August 2024**

The Alliance met on the 23rd August.

The Alliance members considered the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES), a partnership between Public Health Scotland and Institute of Health Equity to strengthen and accelerate action in Scotland to reduce health inequalities. CHES is proposing to partner with three places in Scotland on 4 components: analysis of data, understanding enablers and barriers to action, developing an implementation plan, establish a Scotland-wide learning system. NEPHA considered the additionality CHES would bring to the NE and agreed that it would be helpful to draw on the national learning system to consider how to best utilise local opportunities such as the Health Determinants Research Collaborative. It was agreed that the Community Planning Partnerships would share their CHES self-evaluation processes / findings to inform NEPHA’s focus going forward.

Alison Hannan, Public Health Practitioner (Advanced) presented the work of the NE Place and Wellbeing Network on Social Prescribing. A visual model was presented to clarify the distinction between formal and informal social prescribing. NEPHA fully supported the proposed activities to strengthen social prescribing in the NE, which included an awareness campaign and development of a toolkit to support community groups navigate processes and information governance requirements.

Simon Rayner, Aberdeen City ADP Lead presented the work undertaken to prepare for the potential threat of increasing availability of synthetic opioids and other potent substances in Aberdeen City. An emergency response plan had been developed taking a civil contingencies approach. NEPHA agreed that a pan Grampian response should to be developed building on the City’s work and commitment was made to progress this with LRP colleagues.

The Alliance acknowledged that the National Population Health Framework engagement resources would be published in early September. It was agreed that this would be shared with the NE Community Planning Partnerships for feedback and responses would be shared with NEPHA.

Jim Savege

NEPHA Chair

Chief Executive

Aberdeenshire Council

Susan Webb

Director of Public Health

NHS Grampian