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

The Alliance met on the 8th February. The meeting considered the final draft strategic partnership agreement and addendum. This addendum sets out all amendments made in response to feedback provided through partners’ respective governance arrangements. The Chair proposed that this would be the adopted agreement, with an annual review.

Building knowledge and evidence to inform collective action for population health is central to NEPHA’s aims. In support of this, a detailed ‘atlas of health inequalities’ drawing on the collective data assets of partners is currently being developed with support from the Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaborative. A North East Portal is underway and a prototype regional geographical reporting system using PowerBi has been built using Datazone and Intermediate datazone data for all 3 LA areas.

Over the last few months the Alliance in collaboration with Community Planning Partnerships have been actively considering where greater impact to mitigate the rising cost of living could be achieved. A policy and practice briefing developed by the Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaborative (providing the evidence base) has informed this dialogue. Representatives from a wide range of organisations including health, education, third sector, academic, sport & leisure and social care have been involved. The Alliance is supporting continued focus on the areas identified including using Anchor Institution collaborations to address issues such as physical space and volunteering, data sharing and supporting evaluation of local programmes.

The North East has a breadth of good practice in relation to community participation. Providing additionality to this, two focus areas sponsored by the Alliance, have been gaining momentum. Through the Place and Wellbeing symposium and network a community led movement for green health has been developing. The emerging themes -social prescribing and green health pathways (particularly young people’s access to the natural place) have been gaining traction, with commitment from partners to build learning and sharing action on these.

The second area has been exploring the use of health data to inform community action to minimise winter falls. This winter, analysis of emergency department admissions was provided to direct street slating and gritting by volunteer ‘ice crews’ in Aberdeen City. Drawing on this test of change, the Alliance are keen to explore the value of and opportunities for data driven community action further with community planning partnerships.

Jim Savege

NEPHA Chair

Chief Executive

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Susan Webb

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