Finance Committee

Prevention

Submission from Shetland Partnership

The following response is from the Shetland Partnership Resources Group on behalf of Shetland’s CPP. The response was collated at a workshop held in Shetland on Prevention, held on 15th October 2015.

1. Why has the progress of reform proposed by the Christie Commission been so slow?

- It is challenging to:
  - keep prevention as the priority when delivering services to meet current need;
  - ensuring all partners are engaged, with agreed long-term outcomes;
  - adapt annual budget setting processes to take account of:
    - long-term impact;
    - long-term savings;
    - extra spending in one service will result in improved outcomes for another service / organisation.
- Political support may be focused on short-term rather than longer term outcomes.

2. What are the main barriers to change and how do we address them in order to accelerate the rate of progress?

- Public funding annual budgeting (address through national funding streams to support prevention / transitional fund for local innovation).
- Political interests do not always match long-term outcomes; this is particularly the case for Elected Members, who have smaller geographical interests (agree on a strategic prevention plan with political buy-in, particularly to assist Councillors with their role, linked with community engagement and buy-in, see next bullet).
- Change in delivering of services can be unsettling for the public (build capacity of staff and politicians to ensure robust communication is in place to support the change).
- Ability to effectively monitor long-term impact (invest in skills to enable this).
- In certain circumstances, strengthened legislation may assist.
3. **How do we ensure that the necessary culture change and greater levels of integration takes place?**

- Directly link resources from central government to statutory/legislative prevention programmes.
- Investment in the resources (and time) required for innovation.
- Show the link between community engagement and decision making; which includes raising understanding about the prevention agenda and the benefits.

4. **How do we create a culture of innovation?**

- Enable politicians and officers to feel comfortable to be innovative, and share ideas (including permission to fail / learning from failure); to be less risk averse.
- Greater local autonomy: approaches for urban areas will not necessarily benefit geographies such as Shetland.

5. **What opportunities does digital technology provide in reforming the delivery of public services towards prevention?**

Digital technology provides many opportunities to support reforms to the delivery of public services, to provide interconnected and accessible public services, such as:

- Telehealth
- VC
- Online exams/qualifications.

However, it is essential that access is inclusive, and advances in technology do not widen inequalities.

6. **How should community planning be developed to support service integration and the focus on prevention?**

- Providing one funding stream to CPPs, so that all local outcomes and finance are combined. This would also enable the impact of longer-term measures to be seen.
- Local democratic reform/participation, including increased involvement of communities and enhanced role for Community Councils (in part addressed through Community Empowerment Act).

7. **What lessons can we learn from other countries in delivering a preventative approach?**

There are many examples of good practice, a selection being:

- Sweden – sharing homes.
- Holland, Scandinavia – higher taxes.
• Spain – outdoor gyms.
• Canada - telecommunications.
• Quebec – approach regarding alcohol.
• Germany – guaranteed employment for Modern Apprentices.
• Alaskan healthcare.
• Germany & Sweden - rent controls.

8. What are the implications for the provision of public services if the decisive shift to prevention does not take place?

• The implications are very significant: increasing inequality, unequal provision, and a more dangerous and divided society, whilst there is the potential for spend to increase in order to react to the issues created.

This provides a list of those people who attended the workshop:

Ann Black, Shetland Partnership Resources Group
Simon Bokor-Ingram, Joint Integrated Board
Colin Bragg, Environmental Partnership
Juan Brown, Environmental Partnership
Jane Cluness, Integrated Children and Young People’s Forum
Lizzie Coutts, Community Safety & Resilience Board
Tommy Coutts, Development Partnership
Fiona Currie, Community Planning & Development, SIC
Brendan Hall, Community Planning & Development, SIC
Jim Leask, Integrated Children and Young People’s Forum
James McConnachie, Police Scotland
Iain McDiarmid, Development Partnership
Emma Perring, Community Planning & Development, SIC
June Porter, Fairer Partnership
Elizabeth Robinson, Fairer Partnership
Jo Robinson, Joint Integrated Board
Vaila Simpson, Community Planning & Development, SIC
Karl Williamson, Finance Representative, NHS Shetland / Joint Integrated Board