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Convener
Health, Social Care, and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear Clare

PUBLICATION OF SCOTLAND'S POPULATION HEALTH FRAMEWORK AND THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICE RENEWAL FRAMEWORK

I am writing to inform the Committee of the publication today of two significant frameworks: Scotland's new Population Health Framework (PHF) and the Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework (SRF). These publications represent important milestones in delivering the Scottish Government's health and social care reform programme, first set out in January. They underpin our vision for a healthier, fairer, and more resilient Scotland.

The Population Health Framework, developed in partnership with COSLA and informed by wide-ranging engagement with stakeholders across sectors, sets out a shared ambition to improve health and wellbeing throughout Scotland. It focuses on tackling persistent and widening health inequalities and puts prevention and the broader social determinants of health at the heart of a whole-system approach. The full document is available here: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836915942>.

At the core of the PHF is a commitment to improving life expectancy for everyone in Scotland and closing the avoidable and unjust gap between our most and least deprived communities. This shift in focus, from treating illness to preventing it, requires targeted action to address the root causes of poor health and to invest where the need is greatest.

To support implementation, we have published a suite of supporting materials, including an [Evidence Paper](#), that sets out the current picture of health inequalities, their drivers, and how we can address them. In addition, sector-specific summaries outline the unique contributions of [local government](#), [the NHS](#), [the community and voluntary sector](#), and [the business sector](#) have been co-produced with the sectors themselves. These highlight the roles they will play in delivering the Framework's priorities and actions and represent the whole system development of the Framework.

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Initial actions under the PHF include expanding social prescribing, creating healthier food environments, and pursuing our goal of a tobacco-free generation.

As a key early action, I can confirm that the Scottish Government will introduce regulations this Autumn to make the balance of foods available on promotion healthier and restrict the location of food and drink high in fat, sugar or salt (HFSS). This decision follows detailed analysis of public consultation responses.

These regulations will:

- target food categories that are significant contributors of calories, fat and sugar to the Scottish diet;
- restrict promotion of pre-packed food and drink products within targeted food categories that are high in fat, sugar or salt (HFSS);
- restrict volume price promotions of HFSS products such as multi-buy offers (for example buy one get one free) and free refills of soft drinks with added sugar;
- restrict the placement of HFSS food and drink products at key selling locations such as store entrances, checkouts and aisle ends.

This decision aligns with equivalent decisions made by the UK and Welsh Governments and will apply to businesses with 50 or more employees, both in-store and online. A full summary of the proposed scope of the regulations is available here:

<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836918295>. The consultation analysis is available at:
<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836910893>.

Alongside the PHF, we are also co-publishing with COSLA the Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework (SRF), which builds on the [NHS Operational Improvement Plan](#) published in March. The SRF provides a high-level guide for change, to ensure the sustainability, efficiency, quality, and accessibility of health and social care services in Scotland, in the face of rising demand. It is available here:

<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836917083>.

The SRF is underpinned by five renewal principles, namely:

- prevention Principle: prevention across the continuum of care;
- people Principle: care designed around people rather than the 'system' or 'services';
- community Principle: more care in the community rather than a hospital-focused model;
- population Principle: population planning, rather than along boundaries; and
- digital Principle: reflecting societal expectations and system needs.

To help put these principles into action, the SRF identifies a number of major areas for change, including enhanced prevention, early diagnosis, and management of long-term conditions; greater integration across health and social care services; more person-led, value-based care; and improved access to services in the community, alongside a redesign of hospitals which supports this shift to the community. The SRF also sets out the role of digital technologies in improving access and equipping people and staff with the tools and information they need.

As we progress in implementing these changes, people across Scotland can expect significant, positive improvements in how they experience health and social care. They can expect faster and fairer access to care, with expanded capacity in primary and community healthcare and access to more 'specialist' clinical care closer to home. They can also expect

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to be more empowered to be in charge of their own care, and be supported to manage their self-care.

To support this transformation, we will bring together existing national resources – currently distributed across several National Boards – into a single, co-ordinated body called ‘NHS Delivery’. As part of this, we will merge NHS National Services Scotland and NHS Education for Scotland. This will ensure we are set up to effectively deliver key priorities, including progress on our digital ambitions, and to provide coherent, streamlined support to local systems and delivering on Once for Scotland services.

Together, the PHF and SRF will significantly progress us towards achieving our vision for health and social care – a Scotland where people live longer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives.

I would welcome the Committee’s support in raising awareness of both Frameworks with stakeholders and wider audiences. I look forward to working with you and Committee members to take forward this vital agenda.

Should you require any further information, officials would be happy to assist. For enquiries related to the PHF, please contact PHF@gov.scot. For queries on HFSS regulations, contact dietpolicy@gov.scot , and for matters related to the SRF, contact hscservicerenewalframework@gov.scot.

Yours sincerely



NEIL GRAY

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