

Health inequalities in Scotland

Self-assessment checklist for
Community Planning Partnerships



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission
December 2012



Auditor General for Scotland

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She is responsible for investigating whether public spending bodies achieve the best possible value for money and adhere to the highest standards of financial management.

She is independent and not subject to the control of any member of the Scottish Government or the Parliament.

The Auditor General is responsible for securing the audit of the Scottish Government and most other public sector bodies except local authorities and fire and police boards.

The following bodies fall within the remit of the Auditor General:

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- government agencies, eg the Scottish Prison Service, Historic Scotland
- NHS bodies
- further education colleges
- Scottish Water
- NDPBs and others, eg Scottish Enterprise.

The Accounts Commission

The Accounts Commission is a statutory, independent body which, through the audit process, requests local authorities in Scotland to achieve the highest standards of financial stewardship and the economic, efficient and effective use of their resources. The Commission has four main responsibilities:

- securing the external audit, including the audit of Best Value and Community Planning
- following up issues of concern identified through the audit, to ensure satisfactory resolutions
- carrying out national performance studies to improve economy, efficiency and effectiveness in local government
- issuing an annual direction to local authorities which sets out the range of performance information they are required to publish.

The Commission secures the audit of 32 councils and 45 joint boards and committees (including police and fire and rescue services).

Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000 under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. It provides services to the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission. Together they ensure that the Scottish Government and public sector bodies in Scotland are held to account for the proper, efficient and effective use of public funds.

Introduction

1. Audit Scotland published its national report, *Health inequalities in Scotland*, on 13 December 2012. The checklist on the next few pages sets out some of the issues around partnership working, effectiveness of local initiatives and performance management raised in the main report. Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) should use this checklist to assess themselves against each statement as appropriate and consider which statement most accurately reflects their current situation. This will enable CPPs to identify what actions need to be taken forward.
2. Copies of the national report can be downloaded from our website www.audit-scotland.gov.uk

Self-assessment checklist for Community Planning Partnerships to improve joint working aimed at reducing health inequalities

The last column in the checklist can be used to record sources of evidence, supplementary comments to support your assessment or to highlight areas of interest.

| Issue | Assessment of current position | | | | | Comments |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | No - action needed | No - but action in hand | Yes - in place but needs improving | Yes - in place and working well | Not applicable | |
| Partnership working | | | | | | |
| We provide strong and supportive leadership which helps to promote effective partnership working to reduce health inequalities at a local level | | | | | | |

| Issue | Assessment of current position | | | | | Comments |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | No - action needed | No - but action in hand | Yes - in place but needs improving | Yes - in place and working well | Not applicable | |
| We have involved local communities in activities which are aimed at reducing health inequalities | | | | | | |
| We have ensured that all partners are clear about their respective roles, responsibilities and resources in tackling health inequalities, and take shared ownership and responsibility for actions aimed at reducing health inequalities | | | | | | |
| We have clarified with Community Health Partnerships (and, will over time, clarify with the proposed integrated Health and Social Care Partnerships) the respective roles and responsibilities for reducing health inequalities | | | | | | |

| Issue | Assessment of current position | | | | | Comments |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | No - action needed | No - but action in hand | Yes - in place but needs improving | Yes - in place and working well | Not applicable | |
| We have ensured that all partners are taking steps to improve the sharing of information to help joint working aimed at reducing health inequalities | | | | | | |

| Issue | Assessment of current position | | | | | Comments |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | No - action needed | No - but action in hand | Yes - in place but needs improving | Yes - in place and working well | Not applicable | |
| Effectiveness of local initiatives | | | | | | |
| We have ensured that, where appropriate, successful local initiatives for reducing health inequalities are rolled out more widely | | | | | | |
| We have ensured that cost effectiveness is built into evaluations of initiatives for reducing health inequalities from the start | | | | | | |
| We have ensured that robust evaluation, including outcome measures and associated costs, are an integral part of local initiatives aimed at reducing health inequalities | | | | | | |

| Issue | Assessment of current position | | | | | Comments |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | No - action needed | No - but action in hand | Yes - in place but needs improving | Yes - in place and working well | Not applicable | |
| We have ensured that staff have the skills to carry out evaluations of initiatives for reducing health inequalities | | | | | | |

| Issue | Assessment of current position | | | | | Comments |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | No - action needed | No - but action in hand | Yes - in place but needs improving | Yes - in place and working well | Not applicable | |
| Performance management and reporting | | | | | | |
| We have included in our Single Outcome Agreement clear outcome measures for reducing health inequalities which demonstrate impact | | | | | | |
| We have worked with the Scottish Government to align and rationalise the various performance measures to provide a clear indication of progress in reducing health inequalities | | | | | | |
| We have taken steps to improve the transparency of our performance reporting to allow a better understanding of how well we are tackling health inequalities | | | | | | |

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