HEALTH AND SPORT COMMITTEE

WHAT SHOULD PRIMARY CARE LOOK LIKE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION?

SUBMISSION FROM Scottish Directors of Public Health

The Scottish Directors of Public Health are pleased to be able to endorse the written submission by NHS Health Scotland and the Public Health and Intelligence directorate of NHS National Services Scotland. In particular, we are pleased to see the wider work being carried forward by our ScotPHN and the Primary Care and Public Health Interest Group identified.

The recent Scottish Burden of Disease study brings into sharp perspective how people’s health needs have changed since the NHS started more than 70 years ago. So, infectious diseases have given way to chronic illness as the population has aged and their life circumstances change; especially as the burden of disease experienced by the poorest in our society look quite different to the pattern for Scotland as a whole.

We would encourage Health and Sport Committee to take the work of the Scottish Burden of Disease study into careful consideration as part of its review (see: the ScotPHO website for an overview).

Against this background, we need to consider how to reconfigure primary care in a way which better meets the healthcare needs of local people as well as taking account of their aspirations for a future primary care system. In this regard, Public health provides a perspective on the needs of the population, and primary care provides the means to address many of these needs.