




Title	Cross Party Group on Health Inequalities – Scotland
Description of Intervention	<p>Health inequalities are the unjust and avoidable differences in people’s health across the population and between specific population groups. They are socially determined by circumstances that are largely beyond an individual’s control and which disadvantage people and limit their chance to live longer, healthier lives.</p> <p>To tackle health inequalities, the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group (CPG) on Health Inequalities was established at the start of the 2012-2016 Scottish Parliamentary session in order to raise awareness and promote action.</p> <p>The official aim of the CPG on Health Inequalities is to raise awareness of the causes of health inequalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amongst parliamentarians who can influence legislation; • amongst policy makers to promote evidence-based actions to reduce health inequalities and to avoid legislation and policies that will make health inequalities in Scotland worse. <p>The CPG has three Co-Convenors, all Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs). The Group’s Secretariat is Voluntary Health Scotland (VHS), a non-governmental, civil society body. The CPG provides an opportunity for MSPs of all political parties, external organisations and invited individuals (e.g. academics) to meet and discuss their shared concerns about health inequalities.</p> <p>The CPG has a wide membership, comprising 10 MSPs and 73 members of public and civil society organizations and experts who are invited to join the group. It meets up to five times a year to discuss topics related to health inequalities and holds an annual Parliamentary event to promote its work.</p> <p>The CPG works to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build stronger links and engagement between politicians, policy makers, public and third sectors, academia, private sector and civil society; • Take actions on the least understood and less examined areas of health inequalities; • Accelerate cross-sectoral actions and collaboration; • Gather evidence, ideas and views; • Focus on how specific issues and partners could and should contribute to addressing Scotland’s health inequalities. <p>Although the CPG is entirely independent of the Scottish Government, its work aligns with a number of ongoing and new policy initiatives, including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Performance Framework for Scotland; centred on eleven National Outcomes including health, poverty, communities, fair work, human rights, children and young people, environment, education and culture; • Public health reform programme; to establish a new strategic body, Public Health Scotland, which will coordinate and drive efforts on health inequalities; • Six national public health priorities; designed to accelerate progress in tackling health inequalities by providing a national focus and fostering collaboration between the Scottish Government, National Health Service boards, local authorities, community planning partnerships, and civil society organisations.

<p>How case study creates the conditions to prosper and flourish in health and in life and reduces the barriers that are holding people back in health and in life.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The CPG joins up knowledge and learning and focuses on identifying innovative solutions. 2. The multi-sectoral nature of the CPG contributes to making health inequalities relevant for all Ministries and sectors, helping to address the determinants of health related factors outside of the health system. 3. Thanks to the wider representation CPG relies on, it boosts action and better engages local citizens in tackling health inequalities.
<p>Relevant HESR Dataset indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceived ability to influence politics
<p>Links to HESR Health conditions</p>	<p>Social and Human Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political participation promotes inclusion by increasing people’s perception of influencing decisions. • Involving the broader society in discussions concerning their health promotes equitable access to health promoting goods and alleviates the unequal distribution of power and resources.
<p>Links to HESR Drivers</p>   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CPG takes the Equity in All Policies approach, which strengthens policy coherence across sectors and among stakeholders. • By empowering local people, solutions can be identified and established from the “inside”, whilst enhancing a participatory approach. • This approach not only improves social inclusion, but it also enhances collaborative policy-development process. • The CPG seeks to both examine and inform debate in the Scottish Parliament, legislation and Scottish Government policy to support broad and coherent actions towards creating conditions for health and well-being. Relevant Scottish Government policy areas that the CPG has discussed include: Health and Social Care Integration, Health and Social Care Standards, Mental Health, Housing and Environment, Fuel Poverty, Loneliness and Social Isolation, and Culture.
<p>For more Information</p>	<p>¹ Scottish Government. Long-term monitoring of health inequalities: December 2018 report - Annual update of the long-term monitoring of health inequalities headline indicators. Scottish Government - Healthcare Quality and Improvement Directorate, 2018. Available from: https://www.gov.scot/publications/long-term-monitoring-health-inequalities-december-2018-report/</p> <p>² WHO. UCL Institute of Health Equity. Review of social determinants and the health divide in the WHO European Region: final report. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2014. Available from: http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/251878/Review-of-social-determinants-and-the-health-divide-in-the-WHO-European-Region-FINAL-REPORT.pdf</p>

