

Improving health and reducing inequalities in Scotland: Steering group

November 2023

Call for expressions of interest

We are looking for people from a broad range of sectors with an interest, expertise and/or experience in improving health and reducing inequalities, particularly through social and economic drivers of health to join our new steering group. The steering group will help to shape and inform the development of a new £1.2 million programme of work aiming to drive improving health and reducing inequalities in Scotland.

The Health Foundation is supporting a new Policy Research Unit to deliver a 3-year programme of activity focused on the key role of economic, social and environmental factors in shaping health and driving inequalities.

In 2022, the Health Foundation led an independent review into the state of health and inequalities in Scotland. The final report, [Leave no one behind](#), highlighted a lack of improvement in health and the drivers of health in the decade before the pandemic and, in many cases, widening inequalities. There are signs that the most disadvantaged are being left behind, underlined by increasing rates of extreme poverty.

The work of the Policy Research Unit will build on the evidence base created during the review and seek to address:

- a lack of an independent evidence based commentary in Scottish policy development and discourse
- an identified 'implementation gap' between policy intent and the experience on the ground.

Involvement in this group will offer an exciting opportunity to help shape the work of the Policy Research Unit to ensure it is timely, relevant and credible and maximising impact and inform any related work of the Health Foundation in Scotland.

Who are we looking for?

Recognising the breadth of influences on health and inequalities, and the action necessary to drive change, we are looking for individuals that cover a range of perspectives and sectors including people working in academia, social policy, third sector, business and local government.

Individuals will need to bring expert knowledge and/or experience to advise on the work and support engagement across a range of networks in Scotland. We are seeking representation from across Scotland and from a range of backgrounds.

We are particularly interested in applications from individuals who are from diverse backgrounds typically under-represented in policy making and delivery. We are also keen to hear from individuals who have not been involved in previous programmes of work supported by the Health Foundation.

What will the role entail?

Members will help to shape the programme of work by:

- providing expert challenge and independent scrutiny to the plans for programme activity including stakeholder engagement, analytical outputs and policy critique
- increasing the quality and robustness of the work by providing a wide range of perspectives and expertise
- support dissemination of outputs and engagement across sectors and the political spectrum, including key national and local decision makers and influencers
- help raise awareness of health inequalities, the role of the wider determinants of health in Scotland and the action needed to make progress.

We anticipate a maximum of three meetings per year (lasting 2-3 hours) over a 3-year period (online and in person in Scotland). Reasonable expenses will be covered for travel and accommodation in line with the Health Foundation's expense policy. Remuneration for time will be offered to representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

Our selection criteria will be based on ensuring breadth and balance across the group. We are keen for representation from across the whole of Scotland and perspectives from across the political spectrum. In addition, we are looking for applicants who are credible and well connected in their field.

How to apply

This is a short application process intended to create a wide range of expertise, knowledge and perspectives of steering group members.

If you are interested in applying, please follow these steps:

- Complete an application form including a short written expression of interest (maximum 400 words) outlining why you would like to be involved and what expertise and experience you would bring to the group.
- **Submit a recent CV or biography setting out your relevant experience.** You can access the [application form](#) on our website. Applications should be sent to healthylives.tenders@health.org.uk no later than **midday, Wednesday 10 January 2024**.

If you have any queries about the role, please email healthylives.tenders@health.org.uk.

About the Health Foundation

The Health Foundation is an independent charitable organisation working to build a healthier UK. We are funded by a large endowment, currently valued at over £1bn.

Health is our most precious asset. Good health and wellbeing enables us to live happy, fulfilling lives and frees us up to achieve our potential. It fuels our prosperity – a healthy and productive labour force is the engine that powers our economy. And it helps to build a stronger society by enabling us to play a full part in family life, make social connections and contribute to our communities.

Our health is shaped by a range of factors including our early life, the work we do and the income we earn, the education we receive and the homes and places we live in. The health and care system should support good health and wellbeing by enabling everyone to access the high-quality treatment, care and support they need, when they need it.

Yet, good health remains out of reach for too many people in the UK. Improvements in life expectancy have slowed. We compare poorly with other leading nations on some important aspects of our health, such as cancer and heart disease. Deep inequalities in health between our poorest and wealthiest communities have widened. Meanwhile, health and care services are under huge pressure and struggling to provide access to timely, high-quality care.

It doesn't have to be like this. By valuing our health as an asset, investing in health and care services and focusing on the wider factors that shape our health and drive inequalities, we can build a healthier nation.

Further details about the organisation can be found at www.health.org.uk.