

**Senior Leadership Team**

**05 September 2019**

# **Community Empowerment Annual Report**

**Dr Graham Foster, Director of Public  
Health and Strategic Planning**

**For Approval**

## **NHS Forth Valley**

### **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015**

#### **Annual Report for year to 31 March 2019**

##### **Summary**

Under the terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 NHS Forth Valley is defined as public service authority and is required to publish an Annual Report describing both Community Participation Requests and Asset Transfer Requests. This report is to satisfy the reporting requirements set by the Act. The Annual Report is intended to be published on each organisation's web site no later than 30 June following the end of the reporting year to which it relates. For the year ending 31 March 2018 the report is as follows.

<b>Participation Requests Received in year</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Asset Transfer Requests Received in year</b>	<b>0</b>

##### **Community Planning in Forth Valley**

Research has shown that when communities feel empowered, there is:

- greater participation in local democracy
- increased confidence and skills among local people
- more people volunteering in their communities
- greater satisfaction with quality of life in the neighbourhood

Better community engagement and participation leads to the delivery of better, more responsive services and better outcomes for communities.

In 2015 Parliament passed the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introducing a renewed vision for Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland and to give new rights to community bodies and new duties to public sector authorities.

NHS Forth Valley is an active participant in Community Planning for the populations served by Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils. The Community Partners have worked together to identify local challenges and agree priorities for improvement which are set out in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) published for each area and available on the web site of each Local Authority.

The NHS Board co-operates with all other community planning partners in carrying out community planning. In relation to the community planning partnership, the Board contributes funds, staff and other resources as appropriate with a view to improving, or contributing to an improvement in, each local outcome described in the LOIP. The NHS Board also provides information and professional guidance on the progress towards the agreed outcomes.

NHS Forth Valley has a strong tradition and commitment to public participation, consultation and engagement.

“**Shaping the Future**”, the Forth Valley Healthcare Strategy 2016-21 was developed with extensive public, patient and staff engagement and published in October 2016. In 2017 the Board then published “**A Thriving Forth Valley**”, the Forth Valley Health Improvement Strategy 2017-21. The Health Improvement Strategy sets out how the NHS Board will work with our local Community Planning Partnerships to enable all of our communities to live healthier lives. The document sets out the priorities in five strategic themes:

- Children and Early Years
- Mental Health and wellbeing
- Worthwhile work
- The effects of substance use on individuals and families.
- Population wide health improvement programmes.

The NHS Board is currently working with Community Planning Partners to

- Ensure every child in Forth Valley has the best possible start in life.
- Support children and young people to become resilient and see themselves as successful.
- Reduce the number of people affected by substance misuse.
- Increase the number of people including school leavers to enter and sustain quality employment.
- Improve the health of the people of Forth Valley.

The NHS Board has a public website, [nhsforthvalley.com](http://nhsforthvalley.com) and has added a link from the Communities area within the Health Promotion section of the website that takes users directly to the information on Community Empowerment published and regularly updated by the Scottish Government.



## Asset Transfer Requests

A community group can make an asset transfer request for any land or buildings which a relevant authority owns, or rents from someone else. They can ask to buy or lease the land or buildings or have other legal rights, for example to occupy or use the land. Relevant authorities include the Scottish Government, local councils, health boards and some other bodies.

An asset transfer request may be made only by a community transfer body falling within section 80; and references in the remainder of the Act to the making of an asset transfer request by a community transfer body.

NHS Forth Valley is defined as a relevant authority and must publish an asset transfer report setting out, in respect of the reporting year

- (a) the number of asset transfer requests the relevant authority received, and
- (b) the number of such requests which the relevant authority
  - (i) agreed to, and
  - (ii) refused,
- (c) the number of such requests made to the relevant authority which resulted in—
  - (i) a transfer of ownership of land to a community transfer body,
  - (ii) a lease of land to such a body,
  - (iii) rights in respect of land being conferred on such a body,
- (d) the number of appeals under section 85 relating to such requests made to the relevant authority that have—
  - (i) been allowed,
  - (ii) been dismissed,
  - (iii) resulted in any part of the decision of the authority being varied or reversed,

