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| **Title: Healthy universities for healthy communities** |
| **Setting/problem** The health of Scotland remains poor relative to other Western European countries for both life expectancy and time spent in good health (Scottish Government 2016). Whilst universities have the potential to positively impact the wellbeing of communities within and outwith the university sector, universities have focused on widening access to education; more should be done to explore different approaches for working with communities to tackle inequities in health and wellbeing.**Intervention** This work involves a multi-pronged approach, bringing students and staff from Scottish universities together with external stakeholders to explore what makes universities healthy places in which to learn, work and socialize, whilst having a positive and sustainable impact on health and wellbeing of local communities. The relatively small country size and support of the wider UK Healthy Universities Network (UKHUN) as facilitated this work. Interventions include: a Scottish Healthy Universities Network (as part of UKHUN); joint funding for inter-university collaborations with external organisations; and research-impact case studies within ‘home’ universities.**Outcomes** The overarching aim of this initiative is to promote cooperation, collaboration and build interdependent networks in Scotland between staff, students and external stakeholders in order to understand, develop and support sustainable approaches to health and wellbeing. Outcomes:1. Mapping how university campuses are connected to local communities, understand how connections have been developed, and how to improve such connections;
2. Identifying and sharing innovative ways for Scottish universities to work collaboratively with stakeholders to improve health, wellbeing and sustainability within local communities;
3. Generating recommendations about how to nurture and grow a culture that makes our universities promoters of health and wellbeing;
4. Positioning the Scottish Healthy Universities Network as a useful and embedded contributor to promoting health, wellbeing and sustainability.

**Implications** This initiative will establish consensus on prioritization of university and community outcomes, partnership requirements, and policy recommendations for a sustainable network of Scottish Healthy Universities which embed community health and wellbeing as a core component.Scottish Government, 2016. *Scottish Health Strategy*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.**Preferred presentation format.** Oral |