

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Core brief

Daily update (15 August 2025, 12.40pm)

GCPH Hackathon: Reimagining the future of population health research in Glasgow

On 6 August, senior leaders and partners in health and academia came together to discuss the future of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) at a special Hackathon event.

Discussions took place that will be used to shape population health research and policy to ensure it aligns with the Scottish Government's vision for "a Scotland where people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives".



GCPH was established in 2004 as a partnership between NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, the University of Glasgow, and Glasgow City Council, funded by the Scottish Government.

It has played a vital role in understanding and addressing Glasgow's health inequalities. From leading the Glasgow City Food Plan to evaluating the Cost of the School Day and influencing national policy, the Centre has been a critical and independent voice in public health.

However, Hackathon attendees recognised that the landscape has changed over the past two decades.

The impacts of austerity, Brexit, COVID-19, and the cost-of-living crisis have deepened health inequalities and strained public services.

At the event, there was recognition of the need for GCPH to evolve to align with the Scottish Government's Population Health Framework and Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework.

It was attended by NHSGGC Chief Executive Professor Jann Gardner, Board Chair Dr Lesley Thomson KC, Director of Public Health Dr Emilia Crighton, Medical Director Dr Scott Davidson, Director of Digital Services Denise Brown, and Vice Chair David Gould. They were joined by representatives from Glasgow City HSCP, Glasgow City Council, Public Health Scotland, the University of Glasgow, and the GCPH.

Breakout sessions were held to explore and consider GCPH's future leadership and delivery model, and how it can support prevention as a way to reduce health inequalities. There were also discussions on the Centre's role in enabling system-wide change through evidence and evaluation.

Outputs from the Hackathon will be used to inform a draft options appraisal, which will be reviewed by the GCPH Board in September. A preferred option will be submitted to the Scottish Government in October 2025, helping secure future funding and ensure GCPH remains fit for purpose in a rapidly changing health landscape.

Professor Gardner said: "The GCPH Hackathon was a powerful example of collaboration in action, bringing together partners to look at how we tackle the deep-rooted challenges facing population health. This event aligns with NHSGGC's commitment to Transforming Together - building a more sustainable, preventative, and equitable health system for all.

"By working within national frameworks and embracing innovation, we can ensure the GCPH continues to be a driving force for change across Glasgow and Scotland."

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