Our principles

1 Reducing Inequalities in health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable will be part of all our work.

2 Focus on Prevention the greatest improvements in health will come through improving lifestyles and reducing risk factors across our population. We will prioritise interventions which will achieve change for the greatest number of people at affordable cost. Examples include:
- vaccination programmes to prevent communicable diseases
- lifestyle improvement initiatives to reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer.

3 Focus on Early Intervention programmes to identify and treat individuals at high risk of, or with early stages of diseases such as heart disease, stroke and cancer can significantly improve survival and quality of life and reduce the costs and the need for healthcare.
We will:
- work with colleagues across primary and secondary care to ensure high quality programmes for identification and early intervention are in place, are reaching those most in need and are achieving the intended outcomes.
- support evidence based screening programmes delivered to high quality standards.
- participate in the monitoring and evaluation of screening and other risk factor identification programmes to ensure they follow best practice and that appropriate public health action is taken where indicated (for example, to maximise uptake and coverage).

4 Intelligence-driven practice — understanding our population’s needs
good quality, up-to-date information on our population, and its experience of health and wellbeing can indicate where we need to improve.
We will:
- develop a strong health intelligence function, including a core set of health and wellbeing indicators, which will enable us to identify priorities for action.

5 Evidence-led practice — doing the right things
We will:
- champion the use of best evidence of what works and is cost effective in improving outcomes.
- work to ensure this informs policy and professional practice.

6 Focus on outcomes and evaluation — doing things right
We will:
- set clear outcomes for our work.
- undertake regular monitoring and evaluation of all public health programmes.
- Programmes not delivering intended outcomes will be revised or discontinued.
- Within available capacity, we will advise and support colleagues and partners whose work includes public health outcomes.

7 Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing
We will:
- champion approaches that support individuals, families and communities in taking responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.
- prioritise interventions that can enable this at scale and at reasonable cost – for example, brief interventions that have been shown to work in achieving behaviour and lifestyle change.
- work with partners across public, private and third sectors to get public health into all policies – supporting people to take responsibility by ensuring they have the necessary skills and knowledge and live in environments and communities where the healthy choices are the easy choices.
Public Health is about:

- improving the health and wellbeing of the population;
- understanding what makes us healthy, what makes us sick, and what we can do about it together; and
- reducing health inequalities in our population.

How do we do this?

- We measure and analyse local population data to understand health needs, inequalities, and protect against risks to health and wellbeing.
- We use best evidence to inform, shape and influence local policy and strategy development.
- We work in partnership bringing together specialist skills and people from a wide range of backgrounds who share the common goal of improving the health of individuals, communities and the environment.
- We look at the effectiveness of what we do by monitoring and evaluating changes. We use this information to make improvements in the future.
- We work to reduce health inequalities in our population.

Four Domains of Public Health

Health Protection

We plan and deliver effective services which co-ordinate, strengthen and support activities to protect all the people on the Isle of Man from infectious diseases and environmental hazards.

We do this by providing advice, support and information to health professionals, government departments, the general public and a number of other bodies that play an important part in protecting health.

Healthcare Public Health

We work to improve population health, reduce premature mortality and reduce inequalities in health outcomes relating to healthcare interventions.

We do this through provision of evidence-based advice on sustainable and effective health and care services. For example, we review evidence to advise on which treatments would be most effective and affordable for our population.

Health Intelligence

We assess, measure and describe health and wellbeing, as well as health risks, health needs and health outcomes for the population of the Isle of Man.

We do this by collecting, analysing and interpreting health-related data into meaningful information. This is used to indicate areas of health and wellbeing where the Isle of Man could improve. Health Intelligence informs action and enables the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.

Health Improvement

We work to improve the public’s health and wellbeing through all stages of the life course and in all settings. Reducing inequalities and protecting the vulnerable are cross-cutting themes in all our work. We focus on prevention and early intervention and prioritise initiatives which will achieve change (improvement in lifestyle or reduction in risk factors) for the greatest numbers.

We do this by supporting the introduction of evidence-based interventions across all government departments and partner organisations which are appropriate for our population.

Outcome: Determination and evaluation of the results of an activity, plan, process, or program and their comparison with the intended or projected results. (BusinessDictionary.com)