

Universities  
Scotland



# Higher Education's contribution to the National Performance Framework: health.

Universities Scotland's submission to  
the Scottish Government 2020/21 budget

Scotland's universities make a direct and easily quantifiable contribution to:

**Economy outcome**

6/10 indicators

- ▲ 2 Improving
- ↔ 2 Maintaining
- ↔ 2 Mixed performance

**International outcome**

3/6 indicators

- ▲ 2 Improving
- ↔ 1 Mixed performance

**Human Rights outcome**

2/4 indicators

- ▲ 2 Improving

**Culture outcome**

2/4 indicators

- ▲ 1 Improving
- ↔ 1 Maintaining

**Environment outcome**

2/8 indicators

- ▲ 1 Improving
- ▼ 1 Worsening

**Health outcome**

3/9 indicators

- ▲ 1 Improving
- ↔ 1 TBC
- ▼ 1 Worsening

**Fair Work and Business outcome**

4/9 indicators

- ▲ 4 Improving

**Education outcome**

6/8 indicators

- ▲ 5 Improving
- ↔ 1 Maintaining

**Children and Young People outcome**

1/7 indicators

- ▲ Improving

29 of the 81 national indicators across 9 of the 11 national outcomes



## Higher education's broad role in delivering for learners, the economy, society and internationally means that universities make a significant contribution to the outcomes in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF).

Universities directly contribute to 28 of the indicators, across nine of the outcomes in the Framework, that we believe we can easily demonstrate using data.

Where possible we demonstrate this alignment using exactly the same metrics used in the National Performance Framework (NPF). Often it is not possible for us to use the same data set as the NPF metric is specific to another sector or the data set tracks at a macro-level and does not pinpoint the contribution of higher education. Where it's not possible for higher education to use the exact NPF data metric, we have provided complementary indicators to show the sector's contribution to the outcome, using robust data from the higher education sector.

We are proud to contribute to Scotland's many great strengths. We're ambitious to keep doing so and want to ensure that our contribution is maintaining or improving in all indicators where we have a role. We set out what we'd like to achieve as a sector in the short and medium-term on pages 8 and 9.

It is important that overall performance does not lead people to the wrong conclusions. Higher education's contribution rests on the financial sustainability of the sector. Continued performance cannot be assured as budgets continue to tighten. Audit Scotland's 2019 report has found that **Universities have suffered cuts totalling 12% in real terms over the last seven years to 2017/18.**

Looking ahead, we also set out how we want to drive that contribution forward, with sustainable investment, to help Scotland to adapt and succeed in changing times.

We want the Scottish Government's 2019 budget to commit to:

1. **A 2% real terms increase in universities' teaching and research grants.** This would reverse the recent pattern of decline in public funding, and lay the foundation for future growth, which universities would look to fund from both public and other sources. This publicly funded increase would cost £39.4 million<sup>1</sup> in 2020/21.
2. **An additional investment of £12.5 million in university estates.** This would take HE capital investment to £50 million<sup>2</sup> which is half the level of investment made in 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> £39.4 million is our estimate of a 2% real terms increase on SFC resource budget as set for 2019/20 using GDP deflators at the time of writing.

<sup>2</sup> Not including financial transactions.

## A.6 Health



We are healthy  
and active

### Universities' contribution to the National Performance Framework over the last couple of years:

#### Mental wellbeing

##### ↓ Performance Worsening

- Large increase in students reporting mental ill health.

#### Physical activity

##### ↔ Performance to be confirmed

- 46% of university students studying in Scotland meet the CMO recommended activity levels of more than 150 minutes a week. Another 43% fall in the fairly active bracket of 31 to 149 mins.<sup>3</sup>

#### Journeys by active travel

##### ↑ Performance Improving

- The number of cycle spaces provided by universities for staff and student use has grown by 7% over the last three years to nearly 13,500.
- Cycle spaces are on track to outnumber the number of car parking spaces available as that number decreased by 9% over the same period.

Alongside universities' close partnership with the NHS, we are innovators in therapy and practice. Our impact also includes innovations to support healthy ageing and community access to our facilities and services – often in partnership with the public sector.

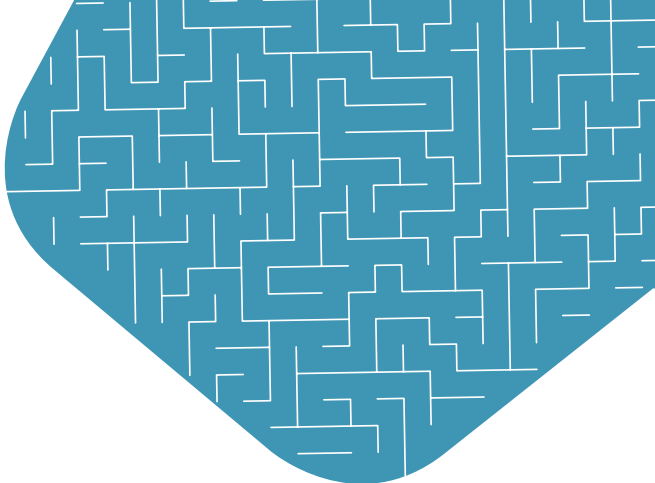


Each year we welcome thousands of new students seeking careers in Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Midwifery.

Intake targets for AY2019-20:  
Dentistry **135**, Medicine **949**,  
N&Midwifery: **4,006**

Source: Scottish Funding Council  
2019/20 Intake Targets

<sup>3</sup> UK Active (2017) *Scottish Active Students Survey*.



**A strategic partner of the NHS**

Universities deliver key professional training for our health service, working in close partnership with NHS Education for Scotland. We have strategic partnerships with Health Boards across the country.

University research and our academic skills set offer the NHS real support in meeting the need to continuously improve patient care and outcomes whilst driving efficiency. Scotland is not alone in facing the huge challenges of an ageing population and endemic social problems that result in chronic patient conditions. Universities are a source of the innovation and skills base that support those transformations.



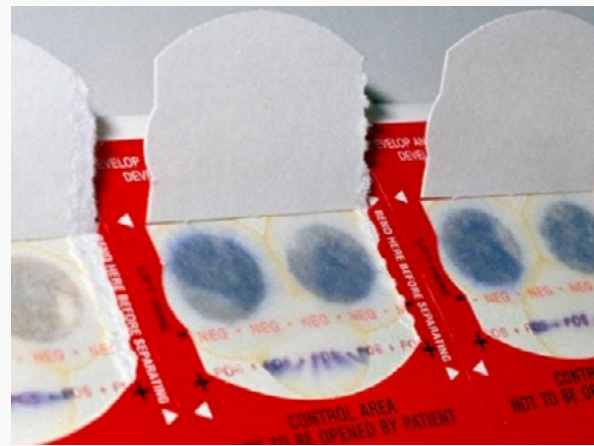
The Laboratory for Innovation in Autism at Strathclyde University is working with the NHS to reduce waitlist times for diagnosis for children with autism spectrum disorder. Currently children can be on the waiting list for months or even years before diagnosis is achieved due to staff shortages, complexity of the condition, and multidisciplinary routes to diagnosis. Strathclyde's Engineering and Education experts are working with commercial partners to provide a fast, efficient iPad-based diagnostic instrument fun for children to engage with, reducing waitlist times, and enabling care and support for children with autism in the earliest years, when it is most effective.



Thanks to a partnership between NHS Lanarkshire, the University of the West of Scotland and Glasgow Caledonian University, all three of Lanarkshire's acute hospitals have been awarded university status. University status will help deliver new and improved ways of working, bringing frontline healthcare professionals and academics together to tackle healthcare challenges facing people in Lanarkshire. One of the early initiatives likely to benefit patients is embedding of exercise interventions to reduce patient falls and promote active ageing.

Professor Bob Steele, based at the University of Dundee, was a fierce advocate for the introduction of cancer screening programmes to allow early diagnosis of bowel cancer. He led the implementation of the Scottish Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme, which has become a model for how better screening can improve survival rates and his research has helped develop more sophisticated screening and cancer detection methods.

In February 2018, statistics showed a record number of Scots are now taking part in the screening programme, with the biggest increase among those living in the most deprived areas.



The University of the West of Scotland and Alzheimer Scotland have delivered a joint programme to teach over 800 Dementia Champions amongst qualified NHS staff to improve dementia care across Scotland. These are health and social care professionals who complete an eight-month UWS-led programme. The programme has had a transformational impact on the knowledge and skills of the participants and was praised by the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland.

## At the heart of our life sciences sector

Our research and our partnership with Scottish and international companies is transforming therapy and practice and our understanding of how lifestyle affects health.

Our research places Scotland at the forefront of the life sciences sector. We attract 16.8% of all UK funding from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences and Medical Research Councils, an investment of more than £115 million each year and that quality attracts further talent and investment. Research has an economic impact but it is also very directly enhancing treatment and public health.



Scotland is working to become a world leader in precision medicine and the Stratified Medicine Scotland Innovation Centre is at the heart of this exciting field. The Centre is a unique collaboration comprising the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen; NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Grampian, NHS Lothian and NHS Tayside; and the key business partners, global biotechnology company, Thermo Fisher Scientific, and biomedical informatics company, Aridhia Informatics. It therefore exemplifies a collaborative approach that brings both enhanced outcomes and efficiency.

A two-year study involving experts from Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow and Strathclyde universities, and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has found that vaccinating schoolboys against the potentially deadly human papillomavirus (HPV) could reduce HPV related head and neck cancers in men in the long term, alongside the routine vaccination of schoolgirls leading to a dramatic drop in cervical disease later in life. The Scottish Government has agreed to implement an HPV vaccination programme for adolescent boys in Scotland.





The Digital Health and Care Institute (DHI) works to meet some of the challenges involved with ageing populations. Some of the solutions are smart, technology-led monitoring of well-being and improving access to personal data for self-management. Strathclyde University leads the academic partners with Glasgow School of Art as a partner for the embedded design capability.

The DHI is leading a project with NHS Lanarkshire to transform future stroke and cardiology services in Scotland, with the University of Strathclyde, The Glasgow School of Art and Edinburgh Napier University all involved.

Stroke patients will wear a new cardiac ambulatory monitor continuously for up to 7 days to detect episodes of irregular heart rhythm and arrhythmias. This is a big improvement in monitoring over the current service. Early diagnosis of atrial fibrillation can lead to crucial changes in the patient's treatment plan to reduce the risk of further stroke.

### A key partner in community access to leisure and sports facilities

Every university with sports facilities makes these available to the local community. Where it adds value, we have developed these in formal partnership with local and national partners.

The Aberdeen Sports Village and Oriam, Scotland's sports performance centre, are both founded on partnerships between universities (the University of Aberdeen and Heriot-Watt University), the respective local authorities and **sportscotland**. Their joint investments provide the universities, their surrounding communities and Scottish performance sport with world class facilities that would have been prohibitively costly to pursue individually.





## Looking ahead: the sector is ambitious to do more

The investment we seek from the 2019 budget would support more progress with the following national indicators:

Specific contribution from universities	National indicator
Investment in preventative services and an effective response to mental illness in our staff and student community.	Mental wellbeing
Enabling the transformation of Scotland's public service providers to target resources efficiently where they are most needed.	Quality of care experience
The provision of venues and activities that support people in living an active and healthy life.	Physical activity
Enhancements in the quality and efficiency of care provision.	Quality of care experience
People making healthier life choices.	Health risk behaviours
The creation of new businesses and products that transform treatment.	Quality of care experience
The development of new approaches to 'healthy ageing', transforming care and treatments.	Healthy life expectancy

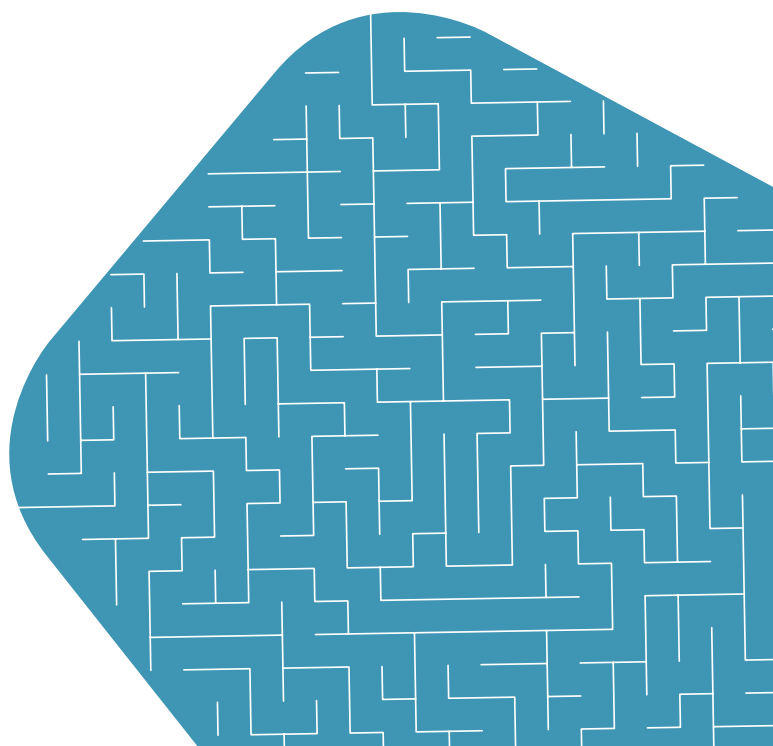
## Where we're aiming for by 2030

Scotland's demography, advances in treatment and societal health challenges will all make the coming decade a period of challenge and opportunity.

With investment, we will maintain and grow Scotland's position in leading research and practice to tackle these major 21st century challenges, from child development to healthy ageing.

Our research will change approaches to public health and to treatment, creating efficiencies and the delivery of quality services.

We will address the needs, and harness the talents, of an increased 'third age' population.



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