**Welfare Reform Health Impact Delivery Group, 15th May 2019**

**Actions for Scottish Government and NHS and Public Health Bodies in Scotland**

Adequate income for healthy living:

* Promote and support take up of benefits
* Support actions emerging from the Health and Work review

Protect vulnerable people from harm:

* Explore ways of reducing DNAs among vulnerable population groups, and sharing learning with DWP
* Support development of complex needs plans in local Jobcentre areas
* Support DWP to develop their mental health support strategies to prevent unintended harm

**Actions for DWP and UK Government**

Protect vulnerable people from harm:

* Improve identification and protection of vulnerable people and extend this to include vulnerable dependents of claimants.
* Improve mental health awareness and support.

Remove barriers to access:

* Address digital exclusion issues.
* Address other barriers to access (e.g. literacy, English language, learning difficulties)
* Ensure people’s entitlements are met, through improvements in decision making process, including work capability assessments process for UC/ESA. Introduce compensation payments for claimants where incorrect decisions have been made or benefit payments have been unduly delayed.
* Abolish sanctions for missed appointments
* Abolish the 5 week wait for UC by changing to payment in advance rather than arrears.

Adequate income for healthy living:

* Support take up of full range of benefit entitlement.
* End the two-child limit and benefit cap, and increase the child element of universal credit. This would be an effective way of reducing child poverty in Scotland.
* Abolish sanctions at least for pregnant women, parents and people with health problems or disabilities.
* Uprate benefits in line with prices and/or earnings (similar principle to pensions).
* Increase the value of means-tested benefits. There is evidence that this would be likely to improve health and narrow health inequalities in Scotland.