

Margaret Morris

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(Voice off screen) If you could give some action points, if you could recommend areas that you think if I was a new non-exec, or if I was coming to this role from a different background - what would you say would be the priority things that you would recommend somebody to do in terms of leadership and health inequalities?

(Margaret Morris) Probably meet with some public health professionals would be a good starting point. We have an excellent public health department here and so it would be about perhaps arranging to meet with some key personnel within that area. And also in terms of the health and social care partnerships, we have a very good person there who is responsible for all the data gathering and all the interpretation of that and how it will inform progress and health inequalities. And I would imagine that each health and social care partnership has got somebody in that kind of role. And that would be well worth speaking to somebody like that who is the custodian of all the data, if you like, and disseminating the information from them - to say you know where are the areas?

I mean for some health boards screening issues are difficult because they have hard to reach pockets of the community. Our screening rate is actually very very good, but we have other areas where we know we can do better. We're very good with alcohol brief interventions, we're very good on smoking cessation, but there are other areas where we know that we need to get better. So, it's really about acquiring the knowledge if you like to enable you. And also I would encourage people to try and take up opportunities to chair, maybe a gentler committee first of all, not one of the great big ones.

But to encourage them to just work closely with colleagues. The other thing I think they should do is as many site visits as possible. I think that's a huge

Transcript

learning curve for the vast majority of non-execs. We've all found that hugely beneficial, hugely helpful and that also actually promotes leadership in the sense that people out there in the hospitals and the local clinics, the areas that you go and visit can see that the board is not this remote body, that you are real people and that you will go out there and speak to them. So, I think to take up opportunities like that is really worthwhile.