

**Health Economics****Economic implications of non-health service interventions****Date**

2004 onwards

**Location**North Glasgow Division  
Beatson Oncology Centre**Key Partners**Scottish Ambulance  
Service.  
The Wise Group.  
Beatson Oncology Centre.  
Greater Glasgow NHS  
Board**Contact**Ailsa Brown  
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There is growing recognition of the range of factors that influence the health of our population and therefore that investment in interventions that are not health care could be a cost-effective way of improving health. Income and employment are known to be positively related to health and as a consequence NHS Glasgow has been looking at innovative ways of harnessing employment and economic growth as a means to achieving better health for our population.

Two projects are currently being initiated by NHS Greater Glasgow that aim to offer employment opportunities in the NHS to people who have been long-term unemployed. Both projects have dual objectives; to fill vacancies in the NHS thereby improving the service we are able to provide to our residents and secondly that the positive effects of participating in the workforce will have spill-over effects on the new employees' health and health-related behaviours. Concurrent economic impact assessments are integral parts of evaluating these projects.

The first project is called 'Working for Health in Greater Glasgow (WHIGG)' and aims to train unemployed individuals to access entry-level jobs in the NHS. The second project is the 'Patient Transport Works' scheme and endeavours to employ unemployed individuals as ambulance drivers to provide a dedicated high-quality transport service to cancer patients in Glasgow. The findings from these studies should be available in late 2005.