

16 Florence Place
Perth
PH1 5BH
6th August 2012

Dear Sir,

I am writing as a longstanding carer of 2 adult sons, to contribute my views on the proposed changes for new Health and Social Care Partnerships.

The proposals make it clear that Carers will be involved in the locality planning process, but stop short of including Carers as members of the partnership committee. This is a change from the current commitment to include Carers in the Community Health Partnerships, and the recognition of Carers as equal partners in care in Scotland's Carers' Strategy.

For several years, I attended my local CHP in Perth and Kinross and sat in the public area. I was unable to contribute when Carers' issues were discussed and this was very frustrating. After years of campaigning, I was eventually accepted on to the CHP committee in April this year, and for the first time felt that I was an equal partner sitting around the table with managers, and sharing in the decision making process.

It will be a step backwards and a rejection of Carers if they are not more included as members of the new partnership committees. I therefore urge you to ensure that this does not happen, and that carers are recognised as equal partners as the Social Care Bill makes its way through parliament.

Yours faithfully

Maureen Summers
Carer

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(MAUREEN SUMMERS)
CARER