

SW/IG/RP/EA

5 September 2012

Integration and Service
Development
Division(Consultation)
The Scottish Government
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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S
DEPARTMENT**

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Integration of Adult Health and Social Care in Scotland – Consultation
on Proposals - May 2012**

Angus Council and NHS Tayside welcome the opportunity to respond to the proposals on the Integration of Adult Health and Social Care in Scotland. We have each submitted an agency specific response but agreed that we would also like to take this opportunity to submit a joint response highlighting areas where we believe integration will support the development of positive outcomes for our service users in Angus.

We recognise that the integration of Adult Health and Social Care lies at the heart of broader public service reform with a particular focus on prevention, integration, workforce and performance as identified in the report by the Christie Commission. Each of these principles will be a focus for our new approach to partnership work in Angus and we recognise that our Health and Social Care partnership will be a key building block in the reform process.

Angus Community Planning Partnership has an established reputation for effective partnership working and we are keen to build on this strong foundation as we move forward. Angus Council and NHS Tayside are already committed to partnership work and this is expressed through the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement. We recognise that there is now an opportunity to make a step change in our partnership through the integration of Adult Health and Social Care locally. We are wholly supportive of the principle of integration.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Chief Executive
Richard Stiff

Data Protection Act 1998

The Data Protection Act 1998 states that we must make any information we hold about a person available for them to see unless there are good reasons for not doing this.

As we endeavour to manage the challenge of the changing demographics we are confident that our interface with the third and independent sectors will improve allowing us to build capacity within local communities. NHS Tayside and Angus Community Planning Partnership have endorsed the **Tayside Health Equity Strategy "Communities in Control"**. At the heart of this strategy is our shared commitment to work with communities and specifically, within Angus, our aim to deliver an expansion of our community collaborative approach including work with volunteers and with carers. To this end our partnership has given significant attention to empowering and engaging with communities over recent months.

While we will work positively towards the integration of health and social care the impact of proposed new and existing legislation cannot be underestimated. Self Directed Support will, for example, only apply to local authorities and it is the view of Angus Council that this requires to be given appropriate attention as part of this consultation.

Many areas of current legislation, such as the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, could also inhibit progress if they are not reviewed in tandem with the proposed new legislation governing the integration of health and social care. A review of current legislation may incentivise health and social care partnerships to consider how they will use their funding. This could lead to greater flexibility and more streamlined processes while engaging key partners, such as General Practitioners, to achieve the welcomed aim of strengthening locality based decision making involving clinicians and social care professionals.

We welcome this opportunity to work together to strengthen our population based information and analysis which will lead us to a better understanding of our consumption of resources across and within both agencies. We will pursue the effective sharing of information across both agencies, which we hope will be supported by developments at a national level, by considering further co location and investment in organisational development with a focus on culture and values.

It is, however, important that both organisations have flexibility in our approach to the integration of Adult Health and Social Care at a local level. We are supportive of a move towards prevention and have already led and developed a number of work streams locally focussed on early intervention including the development of an enablement approach across adult care services and the implementation of a homecare monitoring system across older people's services.

There is a difference of view between us regarding democratic accountability and delegation of authority from whom to whom. However we do agree that

the emerging role of the jointly accountable officer, needs further exploration as does the role of GP's, consultants and social work professionals.

Finally we welcome the opportunity that the development a new partnership will have on delivering improvements and better outcomes for our service users.

We look forward to the publication of draft legislation in the near future and welcome this opportunity to contribute to the shaping of a new era for Health and Social Care across Scotland.

Yours faithfully



SANDY WATSON OBE DL
Chairman NHS Tayside



COUNCILLOR IAIN GAUL
Leader of Angus Council