CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. The strategy outlines a care pathway (page 10).

(a) If you are a service user and/or carer, please tell us what difference you believe the implementation of the pathway will make to the services you experience.

(b) How can we best ensure that services and support meet your needs?

(c) If you are a care provider, what changes will you need to make to implement the pathway?

(d) How will you make these changes?

The Learning and Development team will access the proposed assessment training and use their learning to educate and inform staff of their responsibilities under the framework. Existing processes will be assessed and adapted where required, involvement and commitment of external clinical colleagues and GP's in the process will be vital.

2. The strategy identifies key factors that need to be in place to ensure the pathway is successful (Page 11 para 6.7).

(a) Which of the key factors are most important for a successful pathway?

A commitment from statutory agencies to seek to agree the maximum possible consistency of approach across Scotland, and ensure similar to access to services across Scotland, is imperative given the significant number of voluntary organisations providing care and support in addition to public bodies.

(b) Which are the most challenging to put in place?

A commitment to awareness raising training for front line staff who may have to deal with people with sensory impairments could prove a significant challenge. Resource would have to be provided to ensure a consistency of approach across both Scotland and sectors.

(c) Do you think that any key factors have been missed?

There is little reference to the mental health and well-being of individuals, particularly those who experience changes in status of their condition.

3. The strategy identifies areas for action that should be addressed going forward (Page 13-16)

(a) Which of the areas for action will be the most challenging to implement?

There should be robust systems for maintaining information locally, and sharing this between agencies, in relation to people who have received a diagnosis of a sensory impairment at any time from birth onwards will prove challenging to implement. Although there will be benefits for those who are diagnosed with a sensory impairment there are challenges around where this information would be held centrally, access and information sharing.

(b) Which of the areas for action will make the biggest difference and why?

There should be mandatory training in sensory awareness and assessing non-complex needs across staff in health and social care settings, targeted in the first instance on older people's services will make the biggest difference and have the most significance impact on the day to day lives of individuals living with sensory impairment.

Raising sensory awareness should not be limited to staff in health and social care settings but to all those who serve the public.

(c) Are there any other areas for action that you would like to see included within the strategy?

Recognition of mental health issues arising from living with a sensory impairment and how a holistic approach to care and support would add value to affected individuals.

4. Please comment on the current provision of sensory impairment services as either a service provider or service user. If you have any experience of sensory impairment services, please let us know what you think of them: this should include any experience of one-stop shops.

5. What difference will the implementation of the strategy make to your life?

6. Does this strategy properly reflect the current climate and developments in policy and practice for children and young people particularly in relation to the Getting it Right for Every Child approach and the Doran Review?

Although GIRFEC is highlighted in the overview of the framework the content of the strategy is very much focused on adult services. It would be good if the entire strategy embraced GIRFEC principles and SHANARRI well-being themes in approach to assessment.

7. Do you have anything you wish to add to the Sensory Impairment Strategy or any other general comments that have not been covered by the questions?

Children and adult services are two very separate entities and a robust communication passport to support the transition between the two would be effective.