

Your Ref:

Our Ref: ACE/PPU LM/RK/003

30 September 2014

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SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Professor Morris & Mr Stevens

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE CHIEF SCIENTIST OFFICE (CSO) RESEARCH STRATEGY

Thank you for your letter of 30 June 2014 to the Chief Executive regarding the CSO Health Research Strategy. While many of the questions are specific to NHS structures and arrangements, Dumfries and Galloway Council would like to record our views on key aspects of the Strategy as follows:

Guiding Principles and Key Areas for Action

The six Principles are welcome statements and in particular the commitment to seek out and deliver collaborative partnerships. The contribution of the public, private and third sectors is suitably recognised throughout the Strategy and this is very positive recognition of the contribution NHS research contributes to our economy as well as improving health and wellbeing.

Likewise the five Key Areas for Action do indeed underpin the Principles and are realistic in recognising the need for prioritisation, involvement of patients and the public and again, collaboration.

Chapter 2 - Partnership with Scottish patients and the public

It is important to recognise the new arrangements that will be established through health and social care integration and the opportunity to engage patient and carer representatives about research matters in these forums.

Also, Health Boards have some form of Public Partnership Forum and these would again present informed and interested members of the public to assist you in these issues.

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Chapter 4 - Working in Collaboration

The strategic partnerships identified sit well with an innovative development in our region at our University and College campus which is the development of the Crichton Institute and Regional Observatory(CIRO) www.crichtoninstitute.co.uk. The CIRO is already working closely with NHS Dumfries and Galloway to improve research and intelligence available to the Board and Management Team.

The CIRO offers opportunities for collaboration in relation to health and care research and indeed through Professor Dave Clark of Glasgow University an international three year research project on End of Life Care is to be undertaken, starting in spring 2015. It is essential that the Strategy provides for local partnership models as this supports local economies and shares intellectual and academic resource across Scottish communities and society.

Chapter 5 - Investing in the Future

While we have no comments to make on the specific schemes and award progress it would be appropriate for the location and base of clinical and other academics to be spread across Scotland to ensure that there is a breadth of experience in urban and rural settings and sharing of their intellectual contribution to wider health issues

I trust these comments are helpful to you as you finalise and implement the Strategy over the coming years.

Yours sincerely



Lorna Meahan
Assistant Chief Executive