

THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF PROPOSALS FOR MAJOR CHANGE IN NHS SERVICES

Angus Council Response

Question 1: Do you agree that an expert panel is the most effective way to provide independent scrutiny? If not, what would be your preferred choice?

Angus Council supports the formation of an independent, expert panel and agrees that this would be the most effective way to provide independent scrutiny. We would recommend that such a panel should have a clearly defined remit which is made publicly available.

Question 2: Do you agree that the role of the panel should be to assess the safety, sustainability, evidence-base and value for money of proposals for major changes to local NHS services?

Angus Council agrees that the role of the panel should be one of assessing safety sustainability, evidence base and value for money of any proposal for major change to NHS services. Again it is recommended that the panel should have a clear remit with no scope for ambiguity. Robust mechanisms should be put in place for considering options and making recommendations.

Question 3: Do you agree that the chair should be a lay person appointed by Scottish Ministers?

Angus Council agrees that the chair should be a lay person appointed by Scottish Ministers. It is suggested that the chair should have no direct link with NHS either at a local or a national level.

Question 4: Do you agree that the panel should have a lay majority among its members?

Angus Council agrees that the panel should have lay majority and welcomes this approach which we believe will ensure truly independent recommendations are made for the future delivery of major services in the NHS.

Question 5: Do you agree that the panel should assess the evidence and options during the process of public engagement prior to consultation, and provide a commentary on these that would be available to the Board and to Ministers in reaching decisions?

Angus Council agrees with this approach. We would recommend that the Scrutiny Panel should be satisfied that NHS Board communications strategies are robust and transparent and take account of the broad range of views of service users.

Question 6: Do you have any other comments on how independent scrutiny should be carried out, or on the guidance on "Informing, engaging and consulting the public in developing health and community care services" at Annex 3?

To follow.

Question 7: Do you have any other comments on either the consultation process or your preferred choice?

To follow.