

THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF PROPOSALS FOR MAJOR CHANGE IN NHS SERVICES

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?

An Expert Panel is commended by Dumfries and Galloway Council as adding the necessary rigour and robust scrutiny required.

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?

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

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

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?

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?

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

Dumfries and Galloway Council sees the real need for effective consultation and engagement and feels that the platform it provides in terms of its Area Committees could locally add value to the scrutiny processes.

The Council endorses the response made by NHS Dumfries and Galloway.