

**Independent scrutiny of NHS Boards proposals for major changes in local NHS services.**

Please write your response here (please continue on a separate sheet of paper, if necessary).

**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?**

Clydesdale Locality Public Partnership Forum (CLPPF) is in agreement with **Option 3 An Expert Panel** being the most effective way to provide independent scrutiny.

CLPPF would ask how the panel's independence and expertise would be assessed and assured.

The process of identifying panel members must be independent of political influence.

**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 HNS Boards proposals for major changes to local NHS services?**

**Yes.**

CLPPF must stress the importance of accessibility to services for patients, carers and families. The rural nature of this locality and the issues with public transport also impact upon the patient and carers experience.

CLPPF believe strongly that the criteria should more patient-centred than they are, as stated currently.

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

**No.**

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

**No.**

The panel must be independent, empathising with the locale, utilising the expertise within the panel. On occasion it maybe appropriate to have a lay person as chair, as the lay person will have been appointed on the merits of their expertise.

**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?**

Yes.

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

There should be consultation with the people of the area the service will cover.

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

Public consultation when carried out correctly can be a lengthy process. Local communities must be contacted in a timeous fashion.

How will the public be reached?

How will the apathy be overcome?

How will a sceptical public be reassured that there will not be political involvement in the process?

CLPPF would refer to the importance of communication to and from NHS boards and the expert panel.

Anne Lindsay  
Vice Chairman  
**CLYDESDALE PPF**  
16 Cardon Drive  
Biggar  
Lanarkshire ML12 6EZ

29<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Dan Isaac  
Patients and Quality Division  
Healthcare & Policy Directorate  
St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 OBR

**Re Proposals of introduction of Independent Scrutiny Panels.**

Dear Mr. Isaac

I write on behalf of the Clydesdale Public Participation Forum to thank you for granting extension of time until Friday this week for our responses to be forwarded to you concerning the above document.

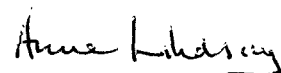
There does appear to have been some problems in obtaining the Document for discussion. I chaired the meeting, in the absence of the Chairman, yesterday, and was amazed to discover that only three members had received copies.

I understand from the NHS Lanarkshire Administration Officers, servicing our Locality PPF, that they did not receive the Document at Headquarters, NHS Lanarkshire, until Monday of last week 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2008, and that the three of us who had received copies had downloaded them from your web-site some time earlier. Other members did not know that your web site existed.!

Members did feel that the time allowed for the response was some what inadequate but accept that some time seemed to have lapsed before we were informed of the Document's existence. Most of yesterday morning was spent discussing the proposals and feel that we were able to do justice to the Document in the end .

On behalf of the Committee, could I request, please, that our Forum is placed on your Circulation List in future in order that this problem does not re-occur.

Yours sincerely

  
Anne Lindsay

Vice Chairman Clydesdale Public Participation Forum.

P.S. Comments coming email separate cover