

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO LOCAL HEALTHCARE BILL CONSULTATION

- 1.1 Fife Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the Local Healthcare Bill. The Council supports the NHS in improving the involvement of patients and communities in deciding how NHS Services in Scotland are delivered.
- 1.2 The Council wishes to comment on the following aspects in relation to the Local healthcare Consultation:
- Role of Community Planning
 - Role of Single Outcome Agreement
 - Appointments Process

Role Of Community Planning

- 1.3 Fife Council has an important role in improving the health and well-being of Fife. Many of the Council's key responsibilities (housing, leisure and social care) directly impact on health and well-being. This role is recognised in strong working relationships with NHS Fife. Both organisations are founding members of the Fife Partnership and have agreed joint plans to delivering improved health and well-being in Fife through the Community Plan. There are strong partnership arrangements in place involving both organisations with the Fife Health and Well-being Alliance and the Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 1.4 The Council believes that the consultation paper raises important issues of governance but that it fails to make important connections to Community Planning, the Concordat agreed between the Scottish Government and COSLA, and the introduction of Single Outcome Agreements.
- 1.5 The Council believes that any changes to the governance of one of the statutory Community Planning Partners must enhance the delivery of national outcomes and the Community Plan. These changes must also simplify governance arrangements.

Role Of Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.6 The Council supports the introduction of Single Outcome Agreements and their role in delivering continuously improving public services including Health. The Council and NHS Fife as part of the Fife Partnership have welcomed the introduction of outcome agreements. The Council believes that the Single Outcome Agreement provides the opportunity to clarify the accountability of Local Health Services to the people of Fife and to the Scottish Government. The Single Outcome Agreement allows for local outcomes to take account of local and national priorities and requires to be reported to the Scottish

Government and to the local community. The SOA allows for the reconciliation of the tensions between national delivery and local priorities.

- 1.7 Fife Council believes that for Single Outcome Agreements to reduce bureaucracy and free up local authorities and their partners, including the NHS, to deliver these outcomes then appointments to NHS Boards can no longer be made by Ministerial Appointment. There is an inconsistency in NHS Boards signing up to Single Outcome Agreements as part of the Community Planning Partnerships when the board contains ministerially appointed members and where the role of single outcome agreement is to reduce micro-management by Scottish Government.
- 1.8 Furthermore, the Single Outcome Agreement will be key in the implementation of the Crerar Study into improving audit, inspection and scrutiny of public services. The Council supports any changes that would be made to the scrutiny of public bodies that is consistent with the principles of the Crerar Study. The Council believes that scrutiny can be strengthened by increased democratisation of Health Boards with the inclusion of more Councillors and directly elected lay members.

Appointments Process

- 1.9 The Council supports increased democratisation of NHS Boards. The Council believes that, like Local Government, organisations that deliver local services should primarily be responsible to those that benefit from these services. The Council urges the Scottish Government to work in partnership with NHS Boards and Local Government in developing an appointments process that will allow increased Councillor representation on NHS Boards and an improved role for directly elected non-executive lay members of the board.