

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

### Question 1 – Are there other areas you think the Partnership Agreement should address?

The Partnership Agreement should recognise the significant inequalities that exist in Scotland and make explicit that Structural Funds should be used to address these inequalities, including health, income, employment and educational inequalities.

### Question 2 – Do you think these thematic objectives will best address Scotland's short-term and long-term challenges?

There needs to be much more awareness raising about Structural Funds, particularly within NHS Boards, but also across many local authority departments and within the third sector.

The theme of social inclusion needs to be prioritised so that Structural Funds can be used to contribute to tackling inequalities in health, housing, education and income.

Social inclusion and capacity building are intrinsically linked, so difficult to prioritise the former, but not the latter (as proposed in the consultation paper).

### Question 3 – Do you think there are any other thematic objectives which should be addressed?

Addressing inequalities cuts across all the thematic objectives. A way of recognising this would be to ensure that the selection process for funding asked proposals to demonstrate how the project would reduce inequalities. Explicit recommendation to use SIMD data to target funding would be helpful.

### Question 4 – Do you think the Scottish Themed Funds will address Scotland's key challenges?

Health and wellbeing should be included as an example under social inclusion and local development.

**Question 5 – How do you think the governance and delivery arrangements will impact on your sector?**

Although Health Boards are partners through Community Planning, knowledge and involvement in Structural Funds is limited within the health sector. Contributing to the work with Equity Action has however highlighted that reducing health inequalities is a fundamental contributing factor to reducing inequalities in income, wealth and opportunity.

**Question 6 – How do you think the governance and delivery arrangements will impact on your organisation?**

Linked to 5 above, a strengthened role for Community Planning could link Health better into the process.

**Question 7 – Are there any unidentified governance or delivery arrangements that could aid simplification of the future programmes and ensure that the Structural Funds complement each other?**

The recommendations from existing social policy documents such as Equally Well, the Early Years Framework and Achieving Our Potential need to be recognised and stronger links need to be made

**Question 8 – What other delivery options do you think would be feasible for delivering youth employment initiatives?**

**Question 9 – What other measures could be taken to reduce the audit and control pressures?**

It is important not to deter partners/projects from seeking multiple funding sources so flexibility around reporting/audit is essential. Outcomes may be partially achieved using structured funds, but other funds may also contribute. Using an established partnership route like Community Planning may simplify the process. This has been used to allocate funding in the past e.g. Fairer Scotland Fund and Change Fund for Older People.

**Question 10 – Do you have any further comments on the proposals?**