

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Board</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>7 October 2021</b>
<b>Item Number:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>National Care Service consultation</b>
<b>Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:</b>	<b>Caroline Hiscox, Chief Executive</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Sarah Duncan, Board Secretary</b>

## 1 Purpose

### **This paper is presented to the Board for:**

- Endorsement
- Delegation of authority to the Chair and Chief Executive to finalise the response and submit to the Scottish Government by 2 November 2021

### **This report relates to a:**

Scottish Government consultation on proposals to establish a National Care Service. The consultation document can be found here: [A National Care Service for Scotland: consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/consultation/national-care-service-for-scotland)

### **This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambitions:**

- Effective
- Person Centred

## 2 Report summary

### 2.1 Situation

The Scottish Government has a live consultation on proposals to create a National Care Service to implement the recommendations of the report on the Independent Review into Adult Social Care which was given to the Scottish Government in February 2021. The proposals are wide-ranging and may have a significant impact on the structure and delivery of integrated health and social care in Scotland.

Responses must be submitted to the Scottish Government by 2 November 2021.

## **2.2 Background**

NHS Grampian has had a positive experience of integration of health and social cares since 2016. Relationships across the health and care system in Grampian have been improved through working together, particularly during the pandemic, and we are ambitious for the further improvement in person-centred services working across the whole system of health and care.

## **2.3 Assessment**

Appendix 1 attached is the NHS Grampian draft response to the consultation and details the potential impacts, both positive and negative, that a National Care Service could have on the strategic direction and delivery of health and care services that are currently provided through IJBs and Health & Social Care Partnerships.

The draft response has been informed by contributions made from participants at an extended Chief Executive Team Critical Thinking Session held on 15 September 2021, attended by members of the Board, IJB Chairs and Vice Chairs and representatives from local authorities. Clear themes emerged from that discussion, including support for a human rights approach which emphasises person-centred care and services, building on integration as it operates within Grampian, retaining local strategic direction and concern about disruption while a new structure is considered and implemented.

The draft response states that, ultimately, it is not structures which determine success but relationships and the trust that is built up between partners. Structural change can assist in developing those relationships, but it can also disrupt existing good relationships and distract attention away from improving services in the short and medium term.

### **2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care**

The consultation response details potential impacts on quality and patient care if a National Care Service is introduced, but highlights that there is a lack of detail in the consultation about how the interface between the NHS and the National Care Service will work. It is therefore difficult for NHS Grampian to give a binary answer to many of the questions in the consultation document, because the necessary detail to make a proper assessment is not available at this stage.

### **2.3.2 Workforce**

There are no impacts on the workforce as a result of responding to this consultation.

### **2.3.3 Financial**

There are no financial impacts as a result of responding to this consultation.

### **2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management**

There are no relevant risk assessments required to respond to this consultation.

### 2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

An impact assessment has not been completed because the response is dealing with proposals to change the system which have then to be subject to the legislative process and impact assessments at that point.

### 2.3.6 Other impacts.

NHS Grampian's position about a National Care Service could impact its relationships with local authorities, IJBs, and the third and independent sector who all provide services in the current model of integration. NHS Grampian has shared the draft response with partners and will note partner views before the response is finalised.

### 2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The Board has carried out its duties to involve and engage external stakeholders where appropriate:

- Extended Chief Executive Team Critical Thinking Session, attended by Board members, IJB Chairs and Vice Chairs and representatives from partner local authorities on 15 September 2021

### 2.3.8 Route to the Meeting

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

- Extended Chief Executive Team Critical Thinking Session, attended by Board members, IJB Chairs and Vice Chairs and representatives from partner local authorities on 15 September 2021

## 2.4 Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- **Endorsement** – endorse the draft consultation response attached as Appendix 1 to this paper.
- **Delegation of authority** – delegate authority to the Acting Chair and Chief Executive to finalise the response, taking into account any comments Board members wish to submit prior to 2 November to the Board Secretary and incorporating additional examples of good practice in integrated working across Grampian, and submit the response to the Scottish Government by 2 November 2021
- **Agree** – the final version of the consultation response be circulated to Board members by the Board Secretary when it is submitted

### **3 List of appendices**

The following appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix 1 – NHS Grampian draft response to the Scottish Government National Care Service proposals