

NATIONAL CARE STANDARDS



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National Care Standards - consultation on the Principles

26 October 2015

Dear colleague,

The Review of the National Care Standards is well underway. Last year the Scottish Government announced a review of the National Care Standards and undertook a public consultation (link here: [public consultation](#)) to gather views of how best to do this. Subsequently the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland were tasked to lead the development group that will co-produce these new standards working alongside people using services, providers and other agencies. The first thing the development group undertook was to develop a set of draft overarching principles and, as co-chairs of the development group, we would now like to invite you to take part in the consultation on these.

Scotland's National Care Standards have not been reviewed since they were first introduced in 2002. Since then, the way that services are provided has changed and will continue to do so. We have also become more aware of what individuals are entitled to expect from services and these principles reflect a greater focus on human rights and wellbeing.

How services are inspected is also changing. Rather than just checking that a service is complying with basic inputs for all people, inspections are increasingly looking at what it's like to actually use the service. Inspectors from different scrutiny bodies now also work jointly to look at how individuals experience a range of services within the care system. More integrated standards, which look at how the rights and wellbeing of people who use care are protected and improved, from strategic commissioning to the actual experience of using services, could provide a more effective and relevant model of scrutiny fit for the future.

This consultation also asks for views on how the principles will be put into practice with the new standards. After these overarching principles have been agreed, general standards will be drafted covering issues common to all services, such as quality of care from staff; management and leadership; and quality assurance. Flowing from these will be specialist standards for the needs of specific groups of people using care services.

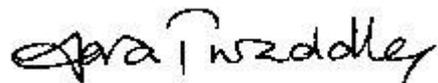
We warmly invite you, and the network of people you work with, to take part in this public consultation and help us shape the future standards and expectations of health and social care in Scotland. To take part in the consultation, please visit our website for this review: www.newcarestandards.scot

Please respond by 10 December 2015.

Yours sincerely



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