

Scottish Disability Equality Forum

Consultation on the role of the Scottish Health Council: Strengthening people's voices in health and social care

About This Consultation

The Scottish Health Council is part of Healthcare Improvement Scotland. It was set up in 2005.

The Scottish Health Council works to:

- Make sure the NHS in Scotland listens to the public and takes account of your views.
- Involves people and communities in planning health services
- Helps the NHS in Scotland to improve how it involves the public

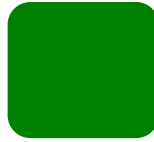
The [Scottish Government](#) and other organisations have worked with the Scottish Health Council to set up Our Voice.

Our Voice is about involving lots of different people and communities in Scotland in helping to make health and social care services better.

Our Voice wants to involve people and communities who don't usually get heard. These communities should get extra support so that they can take part.

The Scottish Health Council has been leading on parts of Our Voice, like the Citizen's Panel and the Our Voice Website.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland are thinking about whether to make changes to the Scottish Health Council.



Why change?

The Scottish Government wants Health and Social Care services to change so that people can live longer, healthier lives.

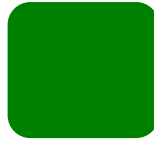
They want Health and Social Care services to:

- Work together more
- Treat people quickly at home, or as near to home as possible
- Provide high quality care which involves patients in deciding what to do
- Make sure people only stay in hospital as long as they need to.

The Scottish Government also want:

- People and communities to be more involved in planning health services that are right for local people
- People to share what they think about services
- People to have more control over their long-term health conditions and decisions about treatment and services

These changes will mean that the Scottish Health Council may have to change the way it works. Any changes should still carry on the Scottish Health Council's work on Our Voice, and use their skills and experience in helping p



How to tell us what you think

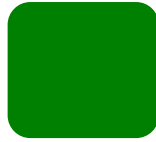
To respond to this consultation, you can do the following:

- Answer the questions in this document and email to james.davidson@sdef.org.uk
- or post to:

James Davidson
SDEF Administrator
Scottish Disability Equality Forum
Office 2/4, The e-Centre, Cooperage Way
Alloa, FK10 3LP

Your response directly to SDEF will be collated with other SDEF member responses and submitted on behalf of SDEF.

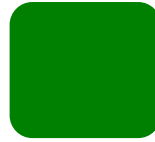
- Go to our online survey – <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FCMGSHQ>
- Go directly to the consultation website – http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/previous_resources/policy_and_strategy/shc_role_consultation.aspx



Consultation Questions

Question 1

Should the Scottish Health Council support the involvement of people in social care services, as well as in health services?



Question 2

Healthcare Improvement Scotland thinks that the Scottish Health Council should work in the following ways:

People and communities

- Help people to know their right to be involved
- Support people to get involved
- Help people to get the information they need
- Ask people what they think

Community groups and voluntary organisations

- Share the things that people are saying about health and social care services
- Share ways of listening to people and involving them
- Find out which groups of people are not being heard
NHS boards, Local Councils and Health and Social Care

Partnerships

- Understand more about good ways to listen to people and involve them in giving their views
- Help Health and Social Care staff to understand how important it is to use good ways to listen to people
- Understand more about Our Voice and how to use it

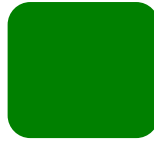
Question:

Should the Scottish Health Council work in the ways described with:

(a) People and communities?

(b) Community groups, voluntary organisations and membership groups?

(c) NHS Boards, Local Councils and Health and Social Care Partnerships?



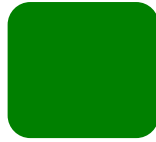
Question 3

The Scottish Health Council thinks more could be done to find evidence of the best ways of:

- Hearing people's views on health and social care
- Involving people and communities in health and social care services

Question:

Should the Scottish Health Council lead in finding evidence of the best ways to support people and communities to get involved and give their views?



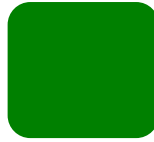
Question 4

The Scottish Government wants NHS boards to listen to patients and local people about the quality of their services.

The Scottish Health Council has helped NHS boards to involve people and communities when changes are being made to local health services.

Question:

Should the Scottish Health Council offer advice to Health and Social Care Partnerships on how to involve people and communities when changes are being made to health and social care services?



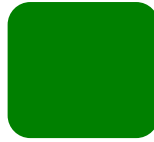
Question 5

The Scottish Health Council checks how well NHS boards listen and take account of people's views on changes to services.

The Scottish Health Council writes reports on how well people and communities' views have been listened to and taken account of. This is called "quality assurance".

Question:

Do you have any views on the Scottish Health Council's 'quality assurance' role in NHS service changes?



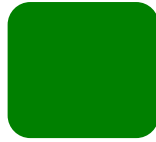
Question 6

Some people are saying that not enough people know about the Scottish Health Council.

Some people are saying that the Scottish Health Council should change its name to something which explains more about what it does.

Question:

Do you think the name of the Scottish Health Council should be changed to make it easier to understand what it does?

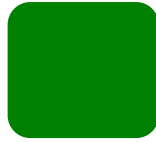


Question 7

We want to hear any ideas you have about how the Scottish Health Council might work in the future. We want to know any views you have on:

(a) How the Scottish Health Council should be run and organised

(b) How the Scottish Health Council should tell people about what it does



What next?

SDEF will collect all the answers from all of our members and write a report. SDEF will give the report to the UK Government. SDEF will make sure our members' voices are heard.

Please give SDEF your answers before Friday 6 October.