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Dear Kate

### **Lanarkshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

I have reviewed the information you have shared regarding the development of the first draft of the Lanarkshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Scottish Health Council staff have attended the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group and the Communications and Engagement sub-group. Our comments and recommendations are based on our observations and our review of the information available to us at this time. We have not asked for feedback from patient and public representatives involved in the development of this first draft of the Strategy.

The Scottish Health Council welcomes the early engagement that has been undertaken with patient and public representatives, staff and a range of stakeholders at the outset of the process and considers this to be in line with good practice in developing the Strategy. The Scottish Health Council is supportive of the partnership approach that North and South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnerships and NHS Lanarkshire has taken with stakeholders to date. I understand this approach will be evaluated using an approach involving NHS Lanarkshire, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and University of Glasgow.

I understand that the wider stakeholder engagement on the draft Strategy will conclude on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019, with a proposed Strategy being considered by North Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board, together with South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board and NHS Lanarkshire during summer 2019. In relation to the process, our recommendations reflect on the activity carried out to date to inform next steps:

- Capture existing data on people's experiences and expectations regarding mental health services and ensure these have been taken into account in the analysis
- Ensure that information is accessible to people (the first draft of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy currently contains around 50 pages) – consider how those people who may experience communication difficulties may be informed and participate/give their views on the Strategy
- Evaluate the participation process to date and capture good practice and any learning points to inform next steps
- Demonstrate how people's participation and contributions have informed the emerging Strategy and provide feedback to participants.

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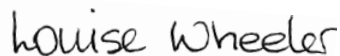
The Strategy sets out a framework for mental health services for the next five years. The Scottish Health Council would expect that further proportionate engagement, and consultation where appropriate, is undertaken with people on any specific proposals for change or redesign that may emerge from this Strategy.

I note that an equality impact assessment (EQIA) is currently being developed for the Strategy. For any service change proposals that arise, I would expect the EQIA to be undertaken as early as possible in the process. This will support consideration of who and how people may be affected by proposals and what support they may need to participate in the process e.g. information in different formats, communications and involvement plan.

It will also be important to demonstrate that requirements in relation to the Fairer Scotland Duty are met in order to inform any strategic decisions about the future delivery of services.

I trust this feedback is helpful in developing a revised strategy for mental health and wellbeing services in Lanarkshire.

Regards,



**Louise Wheeler**  
Service Change Advisor