Inquiry into regulation of care for older people

NHS Highland and the Highland Council

As you may be aware, NHS Highland and the Highland Council are currently engaged in a radical initiative to integrate Health and Social Care. This work has raised two issues that may well be of interest to the Inquiry:

The first issue relates to the extent to which inspection bodies will scrutinise commissioning policies, competencies and behaviours in an emerging environment of Scottish commissioning for outcomes. We would stress that this is something different from the existing English arrangements, and is not the same thing as contracting or procurement (see the forthcoming Audit Scotland work on commissioning).

The second issue relates to the capacity of inspection bodies to cope with an integrated environment. We have recent experience of the Social Work inspection process failing to grasp this emerging theme, and have learnt from those who have advanced in England that there is a tendency for silo inspection to act against integration.

I trust these two short comments will be of assistance.

Steer Simon
NHS Highland and the Highland Council
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