

Health and Sport Committee  
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19 January 2017

Dear Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

### **Palliative and End-of-life Care**

Thank you for your letter of 5 December providing detail in relation to progress with implementation of the Strategic Framework for Action on Palliative and End-of-life Care which covers the period from 2016 to 2021 in response to the committees request dated 16 November.

The Committee have asked that I seek clarification relating to a few areas which I do following the order in which the original request was drafted.

#### **Milestones and measurements**

Can you confirm what milestones have been established to measure progress against the 2021 target?

We recognise it will prove challenging to achieve a complete picture of palliative resources in Scotland and are also looking forward to suggestions from Sir Harry Burns as to how outcomes can be measured and assessed. Can you confirm the work being undertaken by the NIAG will also allow for the quality of care to be measured along with access to care according to socioeconomic group, clinical condition and age and for an assessment of progress towards a person centred approach?

#### **Health and Social Care Delivery Plan**

Since the Committee wrote to you on 16 November regarding Palliative and End-of life Care, the Scottish Government have published the Health and Social Care Delivery Plan. The plan states that “the availability of care options will be improved by doubling the palliative and end of life provision in the community, which will result in fewer people dying in hospital”. Can you outline how this will be achieved and monitored and will it mean an additional allocation of resources to IJBs to scale up their palliative care provision in the community?

### **Strategic Commissioning Guidance**

Thank you for confirming the publication of this guidance to partnerships and we look forward to confirmation you expect partnerships to cover this aspect within their annual performance reports. This is an aspect which the committee can also be expected to consider as part of our planned work looking at how the Integrated Boards are engaging with stakeholders.

### **Improving Public discussion**

We note your decision not to run a national campaign in relation to death and dying and would be grateful for detail on the ways in which this commitment (6) is to be delivered and how the material gathered to date through the opinion website and subsequently through “Our Voice” will be reported for use across the sector.

### **Prisoner end of life care**

We note the degree of preparatory work being undertaken and some specific examples and would welcome detail of the outcomes from the various strands you set out and the changes that are to be implemented across the estate to address the increasing challenges prison are facing.

I also take this opportunity to indicate the Committee have agreed, as part of their work programme for 2017, to look at Health Care in Prisons. Your response on the above will also assist with that piece of work.

### **General update on progress towards commitments**

Our final question requested an update on progress towards implementation of all the commitments in the strategy and we would be grateful to receive that information.

We would be grateful if you could respond to the Committee by 15 February.

Kind regards,

Neil Findlay  
Convener to the Health and Sport Committee