Draft Budget 2018-19
NHS Borders

1. Do you consider that the Scottish Government’s health and sport budget for 2017-18 reflects its stated priorities (as set out in the National Performance Framework, the LDP standards and the National health and wellbeing outcomes)? If not, how could the budget be adjusted to better reflect priorities?

The 2017/18 budget is in line with the stated priorities. However, due to the increasing demand on and developments (including new medicines and technology) in health and social care services even with the resources provided these priorities are unlikely to be fully delivered.

2. For the health and sport budget for 2018-19 where do you suggest any additional resources could be most effectively deployed and where could any further savings be found? What evidence supports your views?

The additional resources (£7.5m recurring in Borders) from the Social Care Fund should be directed (specifically and measurably through the Integration Joint Boards) to provide significantly increased capacity in the community to address the increasing number of delayed discharges (based on local information) which impact on the acute sector where there are capacity and patient safety issues.

The implementation of realistic medicine will hopefully increase capacity and allow a more considered approach to the impact of some of the interventions that currently take place particularly in the last 6 months of life, when a significant proportion of healthcare spend is incurred. There should be careful reflection given to interventions which may in fact be futile, burdensome and come at considerable costs.

3. Is sufficient information available to support scrutiny of the Scottish Government’s health and sport budget? If not, what additional information would help support budget scrutiny?

Increased investment should be supported by scrutiny of measurable defined outcomes and mechanisms to give assurance that Integration Joint Boards are investing in the priority areas
4. What impact has the integration of health and social care budgets had on ensuring resources are directed at achieving the Scottish Government's desired outcomes?

It is still early days for Integration Joint Boards. Success to date has been at a local day to day level but partnerships continue to strive to achieve the Scottish Government desired outcomes.