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Review of Partnership Working in NHS Scotland

The Scottish Partnership Forum (SPF) welcomes the publication of Strathclyde University's report and recommendations following its review of Partnership Working in NHS Scotland. We are encouraged that this review concluded that the partnership working arrangements in NHS Scotland continue, in the main, to be robust and to function effectively.

We recognise, however, that the review did identify some challenges. These relate to the changing nature of health and social care services delivery, the ongoing questions of effective governance posed by health and social care integration, and the need to reinforce the strategic role of the SPF as the senior forum for partnership working.

At the SPF Committee on 28 May 2019, it was agreed that SPF Secretariat would lead the development of an action plan in response to the review's recommendations. To take this forward we have agreed to convene a 'Partnership Workshop' to gather opinions on how best we can respond to the challenges identified. The workshop will include the joint Chairs and Secretariats from the Scottish Partnership Forum (SPF), Scottish Workforce and Staff Governance (SWAG) Committee, and Scottish Terms and Conditions (STAC) Committee, as well as joint Chairs of the Area Partnership Forums, Regional Leads and appropriate representatives from the Social Care sector. It is hoped that this will allow for the progression of partnership at all levels to support a more holistic approach to the delivery of health and social care services.

We would like to thank Professor Patricia Findlay, Dr Robert Stewart and Professor Colin Lindsay of Strathclyde University, for undertaking this review and for producing the subsequent report and recommendations.

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