



DATE: 7 February 2018

RESPONSE OF: The Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland

RESPONSE TO: Health and Sport Committee call for views on NHS Corporate Governance.

This response was prepared by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland. For further information please contact: Elena Slodecki on 0131 344 4964 or at elena.slodecki@rcpsych.ac.uk.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is the leading medical authority on mental health in the United Kingdom and is the professional and educational organisation for doctors specialising in psychiatry.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland would like to make the following general points in relation to the Health and Sport Committee's call for views on NHS Corporate Governance.

We would encourage strengthening third sector, patient and practitioner involvement in NHS Board decision-making, including meaningful representation and participation on Integrated Joint Boards (IJBs).

We believe NHS Boards could improve public trust in their decisions and increase transparency through use of the Public Partnership Forums. These local forums bring together patient, carer and third sector experience which is independent from NHS Board management structures. Such groups also have potential to play a role in scrutinising decision-making and hold Boards to account for implementation of recommendations from local and national strategies. Third sector organisations who are members of IJBs should be representing the views of the other organisations active in their area, as well as any service user and/or carer constituency they represent. Their voices should be complemented by representatives of professional groups.

It is also important that NHS Boards take on the views of clinicians, who are well-placed to provide evidence on how effectively services are being delivered and whether services are improving the health of the local population. Old advisory bodies, such as medical subcommittees, are not fit-for-purpose as they are formed of a single discipline and do not incorporate the user and carer voice.

Another essential tool for effective decision-making is accessible, reliable data about services, clinical activity and spending which is also available to service users and carers. Without reliable data, we rely on anecdotes to inform decision-making and have no baseline to establish whether boards are providing effective services.