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Dear Colleagues

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on Thursday 11 August 2016 to discuss integration of health and social care in Perth and Kinross. As I explained, we are meeting with all partnerships to discuss progress and we are now completing our first round of these engagement meetings across Scotland. These have been both positive and constructive and have proved to be a useful mechanism to help our understanding on how integration is progressing locally but also to hear about any issues you may wish to raise with us and what, if any, support could be provided.

The presentation provided on the partnerships position was useful at providing an overall picture on local progress and in highlighting the partnerships key priorities over the coming years. You provided an overview of the current demands facing the partnership and in particular the challenges in the availability of care at home packages which are further strained due to recruitment and retention issues in this area.

Alongside this we discussed the wealth of data the partnership has available and the usefulness of such in informing where interventions can be made and ways in which pressures could potentially be managed in different ways. You noted that you wished to further develop your data however, we recognised that the partnership is in a good place in this regard.

We briefly spoke about this years Spending Review and the allocation provided to protect and grow social care services and deliver shared priorities, including paying the Living Wage to adult care workers. Although there are challenges in delivery of the Living Wage commitment it was positive to discuss the progress being made to meet this and how the partnership are using this opportunity to change the relationship with local providers to engage them in the development of social care services which actively manage risk and take a preventative approach. This conveyed the important message that local engagement with local providers is key to this.

The comprehensive discussion on local progress was useful and when asked what further support could be provided from the Scottish Government you highlighted local intelligence from other areas which can be shared to support a 'lessons learnt' approach and also clear communication nationally on the scale of ambition and the challenges that come with this alongside the desire to transform services.

We touched very briefly on the support for integration that is available from Healthcare Improvement Scotland and you informed us that you were due to meet with Gerry Powers (HIS) in the coming weeks to discuss support for the Partnership.

I hope that you found our meeting as helpful as I did, and as discussed we will be in touch to arrange a follow-up meeting for next year. You indicated that this may be most useful around the end of March due to the council electorate cycle process but also nearing the end of the first transitional year and looking to progress learning for year two. We will look to build this in to our plans.

Yours sincerely

PP EILIDH SMITH