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Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

29 June 2023

Dear Clare,

## **PUBLICATION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

## **PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH MENTAL HEALTH LAW REVIEW**

I am writing to make the committee aware of the publication of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy today (29 June), and the Scottish Government's response to the Scottish Mental Health Law Review (SMHLR) yesterday (28 June). The documents can be found at the following web links:

[Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Easy read version](#), [Executive Summary](#)

[Mental Health Law Review Response](#)

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

The new Strategy, published jointly with COSLA, sets out our new long-term shared Vision for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Scotland, which is: *“of a Scotland, free from stigma and inequality, where everyone fulfils their right to achieve the best mental health and wellbeing possible.”*

The Strategy covers all ages and all levels of need, and is built around the three pillars of “Promote, Prevent, Provide”. The Strategy identifies a set of outcomes that illustrate what a

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high-functioning whole system should look like, and the standard of support that anyone should be entitled to expect when they ask for help for any aspect of their mental health.

The Strategy reflects what we have heard over 18 months of consultation and co-production, with a particular focus on the voices of lived experience and the role of inequalities.

Although recognising that specialist services will always be a key part of the whole system, the Strategy is focused on the principles of prevention and early intervention, with support, care and treatment being delivered in a way that is as local as possible, and only as specialist as necessary. It also focuses on the social determinants and underlying causes of poor mental health, including inequalities. As well as being published jointly with COSLA, it is a cross-Government Strategy. We will require work across portfolios if we are to achieve the transformational change we want to see.

This Strategy sets out a blueprint for what a good Mental Health system looks like. It describes the standard of support that anyone should be entitled to expect when they ask for help for any aspect of their mental health.

We now intend to carry out further engagement over summer recess to develop the accompanying Delivery Plan, and Workforce Action Plan. We now intend to publish these supporting documents in the Autumn.

This will allow us more time to develop and refine the actions contained within the Plans with our partners and stakeholders, and to continue the same open and collaborative approach we have taken with the Strategy itself.

## **Scottish Government Response to the Scottish Mental Health Law Review**

The Scottish Government's response to the Scottish Mental Health Law Review sets out our views on the main conclusions of the independent [report](#), from John Scott KC. This was published in September last year and set out 227 proposals for changes to the mental health system in the short, medium and longer term as well as broader areas including health and social care, justice and public sector scrutiny.

Our response sets out our intention to establish a new Mental Health and Capacity Reform Programme to take forward the ambitions of the Review. The programme will update and modernise our mental health and capacity legislation to better align with international human rights. It will be a long term programme that supports change to give people greater control over their own lives, care and treatment.

The proposed reform programme supports the focus on equality and human rights that underpins the wider Strategy and it will be one of the ways in which the ambitions of the Strategy can be realised. In our response we have outlined a vision for change and associated high level priorities. An early focus will be on strengthening rights protections for Adults with Incapacity, improving support for decision-making and the way in which human rights are put into practice.

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The response has been informed by our initial engagement with a range of stakeholders. A process of broader engagement will commence over the coming months to develop and refine the detail of our plans and support progress in putting these into action. The programme approach and plans for implementation will be published in stages from Autumn 2023. I look forward to sharing more details with you as we develop this work.

I hope you have found this update useful. I am happy to provide further updates on any specific questions on either document if the Committee would find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Maree Todd MSP**

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