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Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

By email: hscs.committee@parliament.scot

10th of August 2023

Dear Clare,

I wrote to you in May to inform you of the NCS regional co-design events taking place across Scotland this summer.

I am writing today to update you on these regional forums as well as on plans that are underway for the 2023 NCS National Forum, and to invite Committee members to attend that event.

NCS Regional Forums

Our regional forum programme began in June and, since then, we have held events in Stirling, Glasgow, Dundee, Stranraer, Oban, Skye and Strathpeffer, with more than 200 attendees across the co-design sessions. Participation has been enthusiastic, and we will publish reports on learnings from these in the coming weeks on the Scottish Government website. Further events are scheduled this month in Sheltand and Elgin, alongside five online events for people who are unable to attend in person.

Due to the success of the summer programme, we are also planning an additional three regional co-design sessions in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Hawick this autumn. Details of these and information about how to register will be published in the next few weeks.

The NCS National Forum

The second National NCS Forum is to take place on 30 October at the Glasgow Science Centre. As you know, we are working hard to make sure that the development and co-design of the National Care Service is as accessible and inclusive as possible. This venue was chosen, following consideration of a number of venues across Scotland, due to its accessible nature and good transport links. The event will also have an online component to enable people to participate virtually.

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In order to prioritise the involvement of people with lived experience of accessing and delivering social care support, we are planning a two-phase launch of the 2023 National Forum. We will publicise the events directly to people with lived experience first, to allow as many of them to attend as possible. The opportunity to register will be shared through email correspondence to the Lived Experience Experts Panel and the Social Covenant Steering Group. We will also ask key stakeholders who represent people with lived experience, including unions, to share the information among their networks. One week later, our formal launch will take place along with communications about the planned additional regional co-design events to take place. Registration will be through Eventbrite which will be accessible via the Scottish Government website.

The purpose of the National Forum is to act as an annual stock take and complement our programme of stakeholder engagement and co-design. The details of the National Forum agenda are currently being explored.

I would be delighted if Committee members were able to join me at the National Forum. I'd be grateful if the Committee Clerks could let us know of any Members who would like to attend by emailing NCSCcommunications@gov.scot by 30 September.

I hope the Committee find this information helpful and I would continue to encourage members to get involved wherever possible, and where it is appropriate to do so.

MAREE TODD MSP

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