

## **Carers Trust Scotland Scotland Network Partner Conference Health and Social Care Integration Delegate Handout 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

### **About VHS and Audit Scotland**

VHS is the national network and intermediary that promotes and supports greater recognition of Scotland's voluntary health sector.

Audit Scotland gives independent assurance to the people of Scotland that public money is spent properly, efficiently and effectively.

In December 2015 Audit Scotland published its first report on Health and Social Care Integration (H&SCI). This is the first of three planned Audits over a five year period on integration.

VHS is supporting Audit Scotland's engagement with the voluntary sector on the integration agenda, to give our sector the opportunity to learn more about the findings from the first audit and to put forward ideas for areas that Audit Scotland could examine in its future audits.

### **Carers and health and social care integration**

The integration programme is one of the largest public sector reforms attempted in Scotland, with the overall value of the resources involved is estimated at £8 billion.

Integrated planning, budgeting and services should mean better and more joined-up care, better anticipatory and preventative care and a greater emphasis on community-based care. It should benefit the growing number of people in Scotland who have complex care needs – and their unpaid carers.

There are nine National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for integrated care. Outcome 6 says: "People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and well-being."

How can we ensure that the significant levels of public money involved and the new partnerships/Integration Authorities will improve health and social care service delivery and outcomes for patients, service users and their carers? That is the question that interests VHS and Audit Scotland.

## What the voluntary health sector has suggested to Audit Scotland

### **Audits could test and challenge the extent to which integration authorities:**

1. Fully include housing and homelessness services.
2. Embed the tackling of health inequalities into strategy and planning.
3. Avoid narrow and reductionist views about what 'quality of life' means.
4. Create and implement measurement criteria that focus on service user outcomes like improved health and wellbeing (don't just focus on the numbers)
5. Take steps to engage differently with all partners, compared to what has been done in the past.
6. Shift towards a preventative and early intervention approach.
7. Avoid being overly driven by health interests and agendas.
8. Avoid reclassifying investment in tangential activity as a contribution to integration.
9. Engage with frontline health and social care staff to identify what they see as issues in the integration process.
10. Consult and co-produce with meaningful (not token) numbers of organisations and individuals.

### **Audit Scotland could:**

1. Look at whether partnerships improve engagement with the third sector over time and ask Integration Authorities about the impact the third sector has on outcomes.
2. Look at the quality of Integration Authorities' policies and procedures and the likelihood of those delivering to expectations.
3. Listen to what users have to say and use the voluntary health sector to help facilitate this kind of engagement, e.g. hold a focus group between Audit Scotland and people with dementia and their carers.

### Want to find out more?

Read Audit Scotland's first report on integration: [Audit Scotland Health and Social Care Integration Report – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015](#). Visit the [VHS website](#) to see Key Message reports and blogs arising from the voluntary health sector's engagement with Audit Scotland.



We welcome new members from all sectors – join us now.  
[www.vhscotland.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.vhscotland.org.uk/get-involved)

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