



NHS Board Chief Executives
Local Authority Chief Executives
Directors of Social Work
CHP General Managers
Local Community Care Performance Managers

11 December 2008

Dear Colleague

Final definitions - Community Care Outcomes Framework

We have pleasure in attaching final definitions for 13 of the 16 measures in the Community Care Outcomes Framework.

As you know, local partnerships asked that the previous performance system for Joint Future (the Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework - JPIAF) should move to an outcome-focussed approach in 2006. A great deal of active work with stakeholders since that time has led to an integrated approach to promote better outcomes for people who use community care services or support, and their carers, through a new approach to assessment, care plans and review (embedded in the National Minimum Information Standards July 2008) and a performance framework available for use by local partnerships - the Community Care Outcomes Framework.

The four overarching outcomes, and the 16 measures, were drafted from scratch in November 2006 and we have worked with a formally constituted Design Authority (chaired by David Kelly, formerly Director of West Lothian CHCP) and seven Early Implementer Partnerships to test and refine the definitions of the 16 measures, in the rapidly moving context of the National Performance Framework and NHS HEAT system. We know from our recent round of visits that many partnerships are keen to introduce the performance framework for their own local use and so we are publishing the 13 definitions we have been able to finalise to date to facilitate that local development.

We must emphasise that there is no intention to collect data nationally on the new measures in the Community Care Outcomes Framework. This is in line with the principles of the concordat between the Scottish Government and Scottish Local Authorities. However we are keen to promote the Community Care Outcomes Framework and would commend it to you as an appropriate framework to support your forthcoming Single Outcome Agreement.



It is also worth pointing out that the Midlothian Partnership is leading a piece of work to develop a benchmarking approach between interested partnerships wishing to compare their performance against these measures with other health and community care partnerships. We understand that you will receive an invitation to join this network early in 2009.

We anticipate a more formal launch of the broader Community Care Outcomes approach in Spring 2009. In the meantime we hope these definitions will be a useful milestone on that journey.

Yours sincerely

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Health and Community
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