



Angus Citizens' Panel

# NEWS

Edition 3 March 2003

## Your **VIEWS** on Health and Involvement

**WELCOME to the third edition of the Angus Citizens' Panel News giving you feedback and information from the last survey.**

Your views are very important to the elected members of Angus Council and those we work in partnership with, in planning relevant, reliable and cost-effective services for the county. The responses to the last survey will play an important part in helping to inform and influence the future provision of health services by the council and NHS Tayside.

Over 700 responses were received for the last survey which is a good rate of return and will provide valuable information on your lifestyles and thoughts re health services in Angus. However, it is a slight drop from the first and second surveys. This is inevitable for a Panel like this as people move away or choose not to take part any longer. It is important that the Panel continues to accurately reflect the views of the Angus community so the council will be recruiting a new Citizen's Panel over the next few months.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the time that you have contributed to each survey. We hope that you feel that taking part has been worthwhile and would offer you the opportunity to volunteer to become a member of the new Panel, either on the enclosed leaflet or by phoning **ACCESSLine** on **08452 777 778**.

We are also pleased to offer you, in cooperation with our colleagues in NHS Tayside the opportunity to volunteer to become a member of the soon to be established Public Partnership groups. All the details are contained on the enclosed leaflet.

Thank you once again for your commitment to the Citizens' Panel.

Sandy Watson,  
Chief Executive,  
Angus Council

Professor Tony Wells,  
Chief Executive,  
NHS Tayside

## YOU and YOUR health

Some 70% of you say that you are interested in information about improving your health and you want this to be available from a range of places, including libraries.

Angus Council is actively involved in a number of initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles. It is currently working in partnership with the health service in a GP Referral Scheme that offers patients fitness assessments and exercise regimes.

Angus Council is also one of the partners in a project that has provided two Community Health Development workers in Edzell. The project, which is also supported by NHS Tayside, the Scottish Executive and the European Union, is intended to specifically target the needs of a rural community.

The council is keen to help you improve your health. Fit to Live courses are available at your local leisure centre and these include a health and fitness assessment as well as a 10 week supervised exercise programme. Further information is available from your local leisure centre or **ACCESSLine** on **08452 777 778**.

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## Having YOUR say...

Only one in four of you have ever provided feedback on health services although nearly 90% of you think that it is important that opportunities for feedback exist. In turn 87% of you say you would have provided feedback if short forms had been available.

Only four in ten, want to be actively involved in developing options for health services than would be prepared to provide views on whether the options identified are acceptable to you. This result is reflected in the fact that less than one in five of you would be prepared to be involved in group discussions about health plans while nearly three-quarters would complete a survey.

Our partners in NHS Tayside are taking these findings into account as they review their systems for public involvement. They have already begun to recruit members for Public Partnership Groups and would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in becoming a member.

## Information about health and health services

Not only are you interested in learning about how to improve your health, you are also interested in how healthy the people of Angus are and how the health service is performing.

More than half of you are interested in how healthy we are, while three in every four of you are interested in information about the quality of health services and how easy it is to access them.

We were interested to discover that most of you are interested in information at the level of towns and villages and for groups within the population. More than one in three would like to see results for small areas such as housing estates.

We will make use of these comments to improve the way we tell you about the quality of life in Angus. This will be tackled under the banner of 'community planning' and will involve Angus Council working with partners, such as NHS Tayside, to access and provide the range of information in which you are interested.

## How YOU want to become involved...

Not only do you want to be involved in the development of health services, you also have clear views on how you want to become involved. The development of systems to consult the people of Angus about the services we deliver has been a focus for Angus Council in recent years. We will use your comments to shape future development, both within the council and with our community planning partners.

One of the clearest messages to emerge from the survey is your desire to see a range of opportunities to become involved in the development of health

services. You are particularly keen that we work in partnership so that you can get consultation documents about health from the council, whether that be from the web-site or from a library.

Nearly 90% of you think that opportunities should exist for you to be involved in decisions about health services, although you don't want to be involved in every decision at every stage. Angus Council has taken this message on board and will ensure that it is used to inform the future development of its involvement activity and its work with partners.

## Your Lifestyles

The answers you provided to the survey have helped us and our partners in NHS Tayside to gain a better understanding of the way you live and your health needs. Your responses have informed the development of the Joint Health Improvement Plan for Angus, which will help to shape the future of health promotion and improvement in Angus.

The results will also inform the development of other strategies and plans to be published by NHS Tayside.

## Your Comments

We received a huge number of individual responses from you on a range of specific issues including waiting times, transport, access to services, management and cleanliness. These have been forwarded to NHS Tayside who will take on board these views and comments to help them improve the service they provide.