

LH/IG/ABW/RB

6 November 2014

Ms Karen Anderson  
Director of Strategic Development/Depute Chief Executive  
Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
DUNDEE  
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Dear Ms Anderson

**JOINT INSPECTION OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN THE ANGUS AREA**

Following the briefing that you provided to some members, the Shadow Joint Board discussed the working draft report for the inspection at our meeting on 22 October 2014. We realise that officers are providing you with detailed comments on the report, but Board members felt strongly that we should write to you to raise some concerns.

We are proud of our longstanding tradition of working together in Angus to achieve positive outcomes for our citizens. We do not feel that this is adequately reflected in your report – especially since your feedback to us included a recognition that there were positive outcomes in 97% of cases. We are particularly surprised with your commentary and recommendation relating to delayed discharges. The Angus partnership has performed consistently well in this area. Over many years we have been amongst the best performing partnerships in Scotland. We are conscious of the challenges that the new targets will bring and we recognise that we will need to increase our efforts to achieve them, however we feel that your report presents an unnecessarily pessimistic view of the outlook around delayed discharges.

Two specific issues have caused us significant consternation.

Firstly, the report contains several negative comments about our draft joint commissioning strategy. We assume that this refers to the strategy that was produced for Reshaping Care for Older People (RCOP). This strategy was developed in partnership, and was approved by the Angus Community Planning partnership as the right direction of travel for health and social care services in Angus. We received positive feedback on the strategy from the Joint Improvement Team (along with areas that needed to be developed) and felt assured that we were making appropriate progress at that time.

By contrast, your report conveys a clear sense that our draft plan had major shortcomings and that we were not making sufficient progress with preparing the Strategic Commissioning Plan required as part of the integration arrangements. Given that **draft** guidance on these plans was only issued on 15 October 2014, we are puzzled about the basis for your assessment.

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Secondly, your draft report concludes that you have "a limited degree of confidence, at the time of inspection, that the partnership would be able to fully articulate, prepare for and deliver its vision as anticipated." This conclusion stands in sharp contrast to regular, positive comments that we have received from Kathleen Bessos (Deputy Director, Integration and Reshaping Care) who has attended our Shadow Joint Board meetings on a regular basis.

We have robust project management arrangements in place and we review progress at each meeting of the Shadow Joint Board. The draft integration scheme for the Angus partnership will be considered at our next meeting on 19 November. We will then proceed to consult on the draft scheme, to ensure that a final version is produced by March 2014. So we believe well that we are well placed to deliver all of the requirements in line with the Scottish Government's timetable.

In both of the issues described above, we seem to be receiving conflicting feedback from your draft report compared to information that we have received from other national agencies.

We had hoped that the joint inspection of services for older people in Angus would give the Shadow Joint Board some insight and clarity about our situation, instead we find ourselves faced with contradictory information at a time when we should be focusing our efforts and resources on progressing a complex and challenging integration agenda.

We urge you to liaise with your national colleagues, particularly Kathleen Bessos, to provide the Shadow Joint Board with a clear and coherent update as a matter of urgency.

Finally, in the light of the information provided above, and the submission from the Chief Executives, we ask that you reconsider your evaluation for the following quality indicators:

- 6 - Policy development and plans to support improvement in service
- 8 – Partnership working
- 9 – Leadership and direction.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Iain Gaul  
Leader of Angus Council

Sandy Watson OBE DL  
Chairman  
Tayside NHS Board