

**To:**  
Councillor Julie Bell  
Chair  
Angus Integration Joint Board  
[REDACTED]

31 January 2023

Dear Councillor Bell

I hope this finds you well.

Now that we have completed our work as the Independent Oversight and Assurance Group, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for taking the time to meet with ourselves during the course of our engagement in Tayside. We are especially grateful for having the opportunity to present our reflections on the work and functioning of Angus IJB.

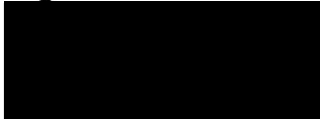
We noted in our Final Report to the Minister that we have been encouraged by the developmental work that has already taken place in Angus following our engagement, and are confident that this will be continued across all three Integration Joint Boards. A continuing reflection by each IJB on their role and responsibilities and how they discharge these, is what will be required in order to give proper effect to the revised Integration Schemes and deliver improved services for the populations of their area going forward.

We are strongly of the view that having clarified the roles and responsibilities for mental health through the revised Integration Schemes, the partners must focus on collaborative working to make the new arrangements work in practice. This is particularly the case in respect of Perth and Kinross IJB having lead coordinating role in terms of Mental Health and Learning Disability provision and that not removing from Angus and Dundee IJBs, your statutory duty to plan and commission for this delegated function. We are confident there is clarity on this and that activity is focussed: this needs to continue, specifically in this area of activity with Perth and Kinross IJB and also with the Health Board. As you will see in our Final Report, we highlight the collaborative approach underway across the Integration Authorities through the Chief Officers, together with the Executive Director of Nursing and the Medical Director of NHS Tayside, which in our view is a model to be replicated elsewhere.

In our report, alongside our assessment of progress, we also highlight what we think still needs to be done. We hope that our report is written in such a way that is helpful and reflects confidence on our part that the further improvements and actions that are required, should be capable of being achieved. Chief amongst those actions are the Key Priorities we highlight at the beginning of this report, not least the need to redesign inpatient services and for them to be located on a single site.

We are grateful to colleagues for their openness and patience throughout our time in Tayside: we are thankful for the way they have worked with us. I also want to place on record how much we have appreciated support from your Chief Officer, Gail Smith: her leadership in this space is commendable as is her commitment to change and improvement.

On behalf of the Oversight Group thank you again for working with us. You have our very best wishes for the future.



**FIONA LEES**

Chair

Independent Oversight and Assurance Group on Tayside's Mental Health Services

Copy to:

Peter Davidson

Vice Chair, Angus IJB



Gail Smith

Chief Officer, Angus Health and Social Care Partnership

