

Scottish Health Council



scottish
health
council

making sure
your voice counts

The Scottish Health Council continues to promote greater public involvement in the NHS and build on the work it has undertaken as part of NHS Quality Improvement Scotland.

The Scottish Health Council promotes public involvement in a number of ways including:

- supporting NHS boards to share good practice, exchange ideas and develop new approaches on how to involve people in health services
- assessing and reporting on how well NHS boards involve people in the development of services, and
- working with NHS staff and communities to improve how patients, carers and the public are involved in health services.

In April 2010, the Scottish Health Council introduced a new structure, aiming to provide a more consistent service across Scotland by establishing the following functional teams with national responsibilities.

- **Community Engagement and Improvement Support** which helps NHS boards to involve local communities and reach out to 'seldom heard' groups through its network of 14 local offices.
- **Performance Review** which assesses NHS boards against the Participation Standard (see page 21) and helps them to demonstrate progress in how they work with patients and the public.
- The **Service Change Team** which provides specialist advice and support to NHS boards on involving people in service change, and shares good practice across Scotland.
- The **Participation Network** which supports healthcare professionals by sharing good practice and new approaches to improving patient and public participation. The network uses a variety of approaches including developing guidance and sharing information through newsletters, policy briefings, networking events and conferences.

One of the Scottish Health Council's key outputs in 2010–2011 was the Participation Toolkit. It includes tools and techniques to help public, private and voluntary organisations adopt best practice in public involvement.

Further information about the Scottish Health Council can be found at www.scottishhealthcouncil.org

For more information about how to get involved in Healthcare Improvement Scotland work, visit www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org

