

Dear Colleagues

**SCOTLAND'S NEW THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE STANDARDS**

This letter is to notify you that the new Health and Social Care Standards (the Standards) will be effective from 1 April 2018, replacing the National Care Standards.

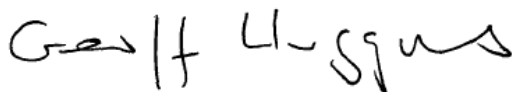
The incoming Standards are unique in that will be relevant across health, social care and social work services. From 1 April 2018, the Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and other scrutiny bodies will be required to take the Standards into account when regulating and inspecting health and social care services.

The development of the Standards has been significant and exciting, and is based on what people told us matters to them when they use health and social care services. In drafting them, we have involved people across the sectors, and implementation of the Standards will help us demonstrate our continuing commitment to delivering person-centred, flexible care and support that meets people's needs.

The Standards are relevant to all those who provide health and social care, not just to those involved in care delivery, but also those involved in the planning and commissioning of health, care and social work services, and will be taken into account during regulation and inspection activities.

I would encourage you to prepare for implementation by familiarising yourself with the Standards and ensuring staff are aware of what they mean for their setting and how they impact their work. Further information and resources can be accessed through [newcarestandards.scot](http://newcarestandards.scot).

Yours sincerely



Geoff Huggins

**DL (2018) 3**

29 March 2018

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