

Territorial NHS Board Chief Executives

Dear Colleague

## Primary Care Representation on NHS Boards

While the responsibility for planning, commissioning and allocation of resource for primary care has been delegated to Integration Joint Boards (IJBs), primary care remains a core responsibility of NHS Boards and there is a need to maintain a clear focus on this at Board level.

Primary care is the cornerstone of our health and social care system. Over 90 percent of health interactions take place in primary care; our general practices, pharmacies, dentists and optometrists are where the majority of people turn to with health and indeed wider concerns. We have collectively embarked on major reform programmes across primary care to shift the balance of health care into the community. As a key example of that the Memorandum of Understanding, of which Health Boards are co-signatories, will see larger general practice teams embedded in wider community teams.

The experience of COVID has highlighted the importance of building and flexing community healthcare capacity across the whole system, as well as Health Boards role in providing the critical enabling infrastructure.

To fully reflect the importance of Primary Care, we ask Health Boards to identify clear Director-equivalent leads on Primary Care and ensure that they are in attendance at regular Board meetings. The role may be filled by the Chief Officer, or one of the Chief Officers in a multi-partnership Health Board area, or by another officer working very closely with the relevant Chief Officer(s). We would of course expect any appointment to be agreed with the relevant IJB(s).

DL(2020) 21

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### Addresses

#### For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards  
(territorial)

#### For information

Chief Officers, IJBs  
Chief Executives, Local Authorities

### Enquiries to:

Primary Care Business Support  
Primary Care Directorate  
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St Andrews House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG  
[PrimaryCareBusinessSupport@gov.scot](mailto:PrimaryCareBusinessSupport@gov.scot)

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**Please advise by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August your designated Director with responsibility for Primary Care, and provide an organogram setting out their position in your NHS Board to [PrimaryCareBusinessSupport@gov.scot](mailto:PrimaryCareBusinessSupport@gov.scot)**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Grisewood', written in a cursive style.

Aidan Grisewood

Interim Director, Primary Care, Scottish Government