



To: NHS Chief Executives;
Chief Officers of Integration Joint Boards;
Chief Social Work Officers

via email

13 March 2023

Colleagues,

As you will be aware, we have been working with the system to develop the **Health and Social Care Delayed Discharge and Hospital Occupancy Action Plan**. This plan seeks to set out the actions that are needed to deliver a step change to support the system reset after a particularly difficult winter period.

The actions set out within this plan, builds on best practice from across the country that has an evidenced impact on creating the necessary headroom in hospital occupancy to ensure system resilience. Whilst each local system will be deploying most or all of these measures, this plan creates the opportunity to assess current activity to these priorities.

The Scottish Government will seek assurances from local systems that the actions are being fully implemented through a variety of means including national oversight and support of Professional Advisors to local systems. Through this process, we will continually review and iteratively develop this plan and welcome your engagement in that exercise.

Whilst this plan will not be published, it will act as an important benchmarking document for the whole system to ensure co-ordination and cohesion of both local and national systems. This plan offers a framework for a consistent direction of travel across Scotland whilst allowing adequate levels of flexibility to respond to local circumstances.

We look forward to engaging you in the coming weeks on this plan as we seek to stabilise and grow capacity within the Health and Social Care System.

Angie Wood

John Burns