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NHS Board Chairs
Local Authority Leaders
Integration Joint Board Chairs and Vice Chairs
NHS Board Chief Executives
Local Authority Chief Executives
Integration Joint Board Chief Officers
Chief Executive, SCVO
Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Alliance
Chief Executive, CCPS
Chief Executive, Scottish Care



26 September 2018

Dear colleagues

The Scottish Government, NHS Scotland and COSLA share responsibility for ensuring the successful integration of Scotland's health and social care services. We are therefore delighted to send to you today a joint statement, attached to this letter, setting out our shared commitment to integration as leaders in the public sector.

This statement is the first output from our review of integration, which is now underway via the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care. It frames our joint ambitions for integration and sets the context for recommendations that will follow from the review.

We look forward to continuing to work with you all to deliver integration, and, through it, better care for people using health and social care services in Scotland.

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

JEANE FREEMAN
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

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

COUNCILLOR ALISON EVISON
COSLA President

DELIVERING INTEGRATION

We need to step up the pace of integrating health and social care. Truly integrated services, focused on the needs of citizens – individuals, carers and families, and on the health and wellbeing of local communities – require our leadership and personal commitment. We need to act together and in our individual roles to accelerate progress.

There are challenges that we must address. We will work together, and with our local populations as well as partners in the third and independent sectors, to understand public expectations and better meet needs for health and social care, which go hand-in-hand with improvements in life expectancy and the availability of new medicines and technologies. We are already making progress. We recognise that we are jointly responsible for tackling these challenges and that we need to adapt, compromise and support one another to deliver integration for the people of Scotland.

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act 2014 puts in place governance and financial arrangements, and a set of outcomes, for us to work within to achieve integration. We share a duty to empower Integration Authorities, to hold ourselves and one another to account in order to make integration work. We will learn from one another and adopt good practice. We will also work collaboratively and in partnership beyond the statutory sector to deliver improvements.

We commit to delivering together because that is the right way to deliver better services for our citizens.



CABINET SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND SPORT



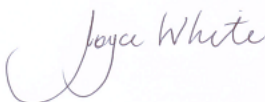
COSLA PRESIDENT



**DIRECTOR GENERAL, SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
DIRECTORATES AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NHSSCOTLAND**



CHIEF EXECUTIVE, COSLA



CHAIR, SOLACE

26 SEPTEMBER 2018