

The Scottish Health Council is changing

The Scottish Health Council's role is to improve how the NHS in Scotland involves people in decisions about health services.

Our aim is to improve how the NHS:

- listens to you
- values your views and experiences
- respects you as an individual; and
- involves you in planning and developing health services.

Why are we changing?

It was agreed when the Scottish Health Council was set up in 2005 that the organisation would be formally reviewed after three years. An independent review was undertaken in 2008 and, after taking account of the findings and consulting with stakeholders, we agreed an action plan with the Scottish Government on how to take the Scottish Health Council forward.

How are we changing?

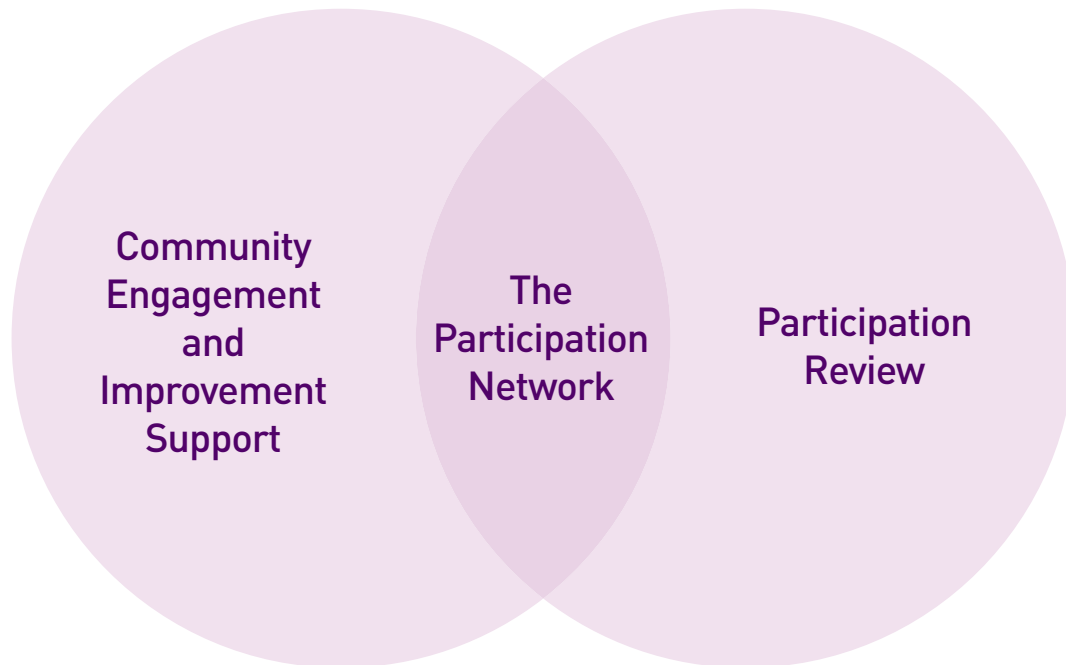
The Scottish Health Council remains the lead organisation for promoting Patient Focus and Public Involvement in NHSScotland. Our remit, distinct identity and network of local offices remain unchanged but we are revising the way we work so that we continue to meet the needs of NHS Boards, patients and the public.

Under a revised structure we are moving away from a regional focus to establish functional teams with national responsibilities (see overleaf) so that our form more closely follows our functions.

These changes, which come into effect on 1 April 2010, will be underpinned by improved communications, greater use of the web to share information and a revised line management structure. This will enable us to develop closer and more effective working arrangements with NHS Boards, Public Partnership Forums and other stakeholders. We will also be working closely with NHS Quality Improvement Scotland as we become part of a new health body, called Healthcare Improvement Scotland, in 2011.

These and other changes we are making are consistent with the Crerar Report which called for 'proportionate' and independent scrutiny and assessment, and less duplication and overlap between agencies.

Our new functions



Community Engagement and Improvement Support

- a stronger focus on community engagement
- proactive and tailored support for NHS Boards
- promoting the development of Public Partnership Forums

The Participation Network

- a gateway service for NHS Boards to share good practice and develop new approaches to involving people
- producing standards and guidance
- influencing the development of national policy

Participation Review

- supporting NHS Boards to use the new Participation Standard to improve the way they work with patients and the public
- establishment of a national team to report on how NHS Boards consult on major service change
- providing secretariat and support services to Independent Scrutiny Panels

For further information about the Scottish Health Council call our national office on 0141 241 6308 or visit our website at www.scottishhealthcouncil.org