

**Item 8 - Question Time**Response to Mrs M Davidson

NHS Highland continues to work at enhancing the range of community-based adult services, while also ensuring necessary specialist and acute provision. The present arrangements for governance were established in April 2012, and it is acknowledged by both organisations that they should be reviewed on the basis of the initial 18 months.

Integration was and is a recognised challenge, but we are focussed on outcomes. This is about sustaining change in the long term, to achieve better services and outcomes for Highland people – we are focused on that objective.

This is not a matter for Highland Council alone, and neither is it only about adult services. Discussions are taking place between leaders of NHS Highland and Highland Council about how governance arrangements can be streamlined, while also ensuring effective scrutiny and decision making about both adult and children's services.

The Administration has been clear that it will involve members of other groups in consideration of these matters. Indeed, I have gone out of my way to involve the independent leadership in these processes.