**SHA Scotland**

**Submission to the Scottish Policy Forum First Stage Consultation**

**Discussion Paper**

**Introduction**

The First Stage Consultation Paper can be viewed [here](https://www.scotlabpolicy.org/get-involved.html). This paper flags up some points for discussion.

Overarching focus should be on health inequalities as set out in Commission [report](http://www.shascotland.org/uploads/3/9/5/5/39556225/healthinequalitiescommission_reportforscottishlabourparty_oct2015.pdf) and recognition of this as a cross cutting issue.

**NHS Scotland**

* Is there a need for a long-term independent review as proposed by Gordon Brown?
* Progress with integration is slow. Is now the time to press for radical structural reform? Such as community care into unitary authorities.
* Role of local govt as in SHA [report.](http://www.shascotland.org/uploads/3/9/5/5/39556225/sha_local_govt_health_final.pdf) Council health strategy.
* Programme to bring GPs fully into the NHS? Dentistry?
* Scrap or [reform](https://www.gov.scot/publications/review-targets-indicators-health-social-care-scotland/) national waiting time targets.
* Target resources on areas that most need them.

**Mental Health**

* Focus on prevention and early intervention.
* Transformational boost in resources and priorities. Again focus on most disadvantaged.

**Social care**

* Recommendations of Quality Care [Commission](http://www.shascotland.org/uploads/3/9/5/5/39556225/care_commission1.pdf) still relevant?
* If move to free care, how fund?
* Workforce forum – Living Wage, conditions, training, planning etc.
* Structural change. Reduce fragmentation and outsourcing. Don’t [conflate](https://theconversation.com/we-all-want-increased-choice-in-elder-care-but-neoliberal-health-policies-make-this-difficult-109589) the market with personalisation.

**Health Improvement**

* Focus on reducing poverty. JRF: four [actions](https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/how-scotland-can-do-right-thing-loosen-povertys-grip-children) to cut child poverty.
* End destitution, homelessness, Fair work and family income supplement.
* Drugs strategy – decriminalise?
* Social infrastructure to build communities and tackle isolation.
* Social security reform. Basic income?

**Wider policy**

* Housing – build social housing, reform private rental sector.
* Radical action on climate change. Air quality.
* Anti-discrimination, human rights and wider equality strategy
* Education – focus on early years.

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