

Dear local Healthwatch

**Today we launch a formal consultation on our next phase of regulation.**

The consultation document, 'Our next phase of regulation: A more targeted, responsive and collaborative approach', follows our strategy for 2016 to 2021<sup>[1]</sup>, published in May 2016, which sets out an ambitious vision for a more targeted, responsive and collaborative approach to regulation, so that more people get high-quality care.

**We want your views on a number of proposals for implementing our five-year strategy.**

These proposals are aimed at achieving:

1. A more integrated approach that enables us to be flexible and responsive to changes in care provision
2. A more targeted approach that focuses on areas of greatest concern, such as safety, and where there have been improvements in quality
3. A greater emphasis on leadership, including at the level of overall accountability for quality of care
4. Closer working and alignment with NHS Improvement and other partners so that providers experience less duplication.

Some of our proposals apply to all regulated sectors, including:

- A reduction in the number of assessment frameworks that inspectors use to help make judgements about a service from 11 to just two – one for health services, and one for adult social care.
- A set of principles to guide our approach to regulating in a changing landscape of care provision, including new care models and complex providers
- Updated guidance for registering services for people with a learning disability and/or autism

Our other proposals focus on how we will monitor, inspect, rate and report on NHS trusts from April 2017, including:

- A shift to focus on the use of information gathered through strengthened ongoing monitoring of trusts and improved relationship management, taking a more targeted and tailored approach with fewer comprehensive inspections.
- A new annual provider information request for all NHS trusts that will be less detailed, requiring them to describe their own quality based against CQC's

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<sup>[1]</sup> Available on our website at <http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/our-strategy-2016-2021>

five questions. This information will feed into 'CQC Insight' and the wider intelligence held about the trust and used to help inform where and when to inspect.

- Greater alignment with NHS Improvement to avoid duplication and support trusts to meet the dual challenges of quality and efficiency.

Plans for assessing NHS trusts' leadership and use of resources have been developed jointly with NHS Improvement and have also been put out for public consultation today at <https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/consultation-use-resources-and-well-led-assessments>.

A further consultation, which will focus on how we will regulate adult social care and primary medical services and further detail of changes we want to make to how we register providers, will take place in Spring 2017.

We will continue to work with people who use services, providers, professionals and our other local and national partners to co-produce our approach.

If you would like to share your views, please read and respond to the consultation at [www.cqc.org.uk/nextphase](http://www.cqc.org.uk/nextphase). The consultation closes on *Tuesday 14 February 2017*.

To support you to respond to the consultation, we will be hosting a Webinar on the **16<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm**. Spaces are limited to 15 participants. Places will be awarded on a first to respond basis. (One representative from a local Healthwatch only). If you would like to reserve a place please e-mail [engagementandinvolvement@cqc.org.uk](mailto:engagementandinvolvement@cqc.org.uk) by the 6<sup>th</sup> January.

You can also tweet your thoughts using #CQCnextphase

If you have any questions about this consultation, please email us at [nextphase@cqc.org.uk](mailto:nextphase@cqc.org.uk).

Many thanks for your support with our work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joni Akers'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

**David Behan**

**Chief Executive**

Care Quality Commission

Public Engagement & Involvement

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

151 Buckingham Palace Road

London

SW1W 9SZ

Tel: 03000 616161