

Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
Rùnaire a' Chaibneit airson Ceartas agus Cùisean na
Dùthcha

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Audrey Nicoll MSP
Convener
Criminal Justice Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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17 February 2025

Dear Convener

Update on Mental Health and Policing

Following my appearance at the Criminal Justice Committee on 8th January, whereby I outlined the work that Scottish Government, in collaboration with the Partnership Delivery Group, are taking forward on mental health and policing, I am writing to provide you with an update on that work.

I am pleased to advise that on 12 February 2025, we published the: [Scottish Government's Framework for Collaboration](#) and the Mental Health and Policing Partnership Delivery Group's (PDG) cross-sector [Collaborative Commitments Action Plan](#).

The PDG has identified a range of collaborative commitments which build on the work and learning achieved to date in the crisis and unscheduled care landscape and supports the alignment of the principles set out in the Framework for Collaboration.

Our Framework for Collaboration builds on the work of the [Mental Health Unscheduled Care \(MHUC\) programme](#), involving NHS Boards and partners including Police Scotland and Scottish Ambulance Service, with the person-centred, trauma-informed and no wrong door principles at the heart of the improvement. The Framework sets out principles for an effective local multi-agency collaborative approach to supporting individuals experiencing distress or crisis with an ambition that partners work in a way that minimises service-level boundaries, and builds relationships and trust between services to ensure that the individual receives the support they need from the most appropriate agency or provider as soon as is practicable.

The Collaborative commitments seek to bring to life what can be done through the principles for joined up working. The commitments will be refreshed and progressed over the period 2025-2028, with implementation and delivery supported through the PDG and progressed by PDG members as set out within specific commitments.

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To support reporting against the commitments, and assist in evidencing the impact of our work, the PDG will scope the development of a proportionate performance framework aligned to the commitments. This will draw from data sources across all partner agencies and publicly available sources to provide a comprehensive framework reflecting both quantitative and qualitative indicators.

My officials will keep me regularly apprised during this first year of implementation and I would be happy to update the Committee of progress early next year.



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