

# Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

## 35th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Tuesday, 21 November 2023

### Remote and Rural Healthcare Inquiry: Evidence session with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and Scottish Government officials

#### Note by the clerk

#### Background

1. This is the first oral evidence session of the Committee's inquiry into remote and rural healthcare.
2. The Committee has agreed that the aim of the inquiry should be to consider the views of remote, rural and island communities, and the workforce, with a view to informing future Scottish Government policy in this area, including the Scottish Government's [Remote and Rural Workforce Strategy](#) and the development of the [National Centre for Remote and Rural Health and Care](#).
3. The Committee has already undertaken two consultation exercises for this inquiry - one using the [Your Priorities](#) platform and a more targeted call for views using [Citizen Space](#). World clouds which describe the main themes highlighted through these consultation exercises are provided at **Annexe A**.
4. In October 2023, the Scottish Government and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) launched the [National Centre for Remote and Rural Health and Care](#). NES states that the goal of the Centre is to:
  - support the delivery of improved care for remote, rural and island communities across Scotland
  - reduce remote, rural and island health and wellbeing inequalities
  - achieve this through focused work on improving the sustainability, capacity, and capability of remote, rural and island primary care and community-based workforce and service delivery

NES is leading work to establish the Centre and has said that the initial focus of the Centre will be on the provision of primary care and community services.

5. The Scottish Government published a [Health and social care: national workforce strategy](#) in March 2022. It sets out the vision for the Health and Social Care Workforce as follows:

“A sustainable, skilled workforce with attractive career choices and fair work where all are respected and valued for the work they do”

This included a commitment to developing a Remote and Rural workforce recruitment strategy by the end of 2024. It is intended that this will provide a framework which will support employers to ensure that the Health and Social Care needs of people who live in remote and rural communities are met.

## Today's meeting

6. At the meeting Members will hear from representatives from NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and Scottish Government officials regarding the development of the National Centre for Remote and Rural Healthcare, the planned Remote and Rural Workforce Strategy, and wider issues impacting healthcare in rural and remote areas.

**Clerks to the Committee**

**16 November 2023**



