

# Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

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

### Women's Health Champion

#### Note by the clerk

#### Background

1. At its meeting on 27 June 2023, the Committee agreed to hold a one-off evidence session with the Women's Health Champion to provide an update on the role and implementation of the Women's Health Plan.
2. The Scottish Government published its [Women's Health Plan in August 2021](#), covering the period 2021 to 2024. The actions in the plan were separated by priority area then into their anticipated timescales for delivery; short, medium and long-term. The plan acknowledges that some of the longer-term actions will take longer than three years to fully deliver. The plan outlined the following priority areas:
  - ensure women who need it have access to specialist menopause services for advice and support on the diagnosis and management of menopause
  - improve access for women to appropriate support, speedy diagnosis and best treatment for endometriosis
  - improve access to information for girls and women on menstrual health and management options
  - improve access to abortion and contraception services
  - ensure rapid and easily accessible postnatal contraception
  - reduce inequalities in health outcomes for women's general health, including work on cardiac disease
3. The plan committed to establish a national Women's Health Champion and a Women's Health Lead in every NHS board to drive change and share best practice and innovation. It was intended that the Women's Health Champion would:
  - drive forward strategic change nationally
  - raise awareness of women's health
  - promote the Women's Health Plan
  - support a network of local women's health experts and leaders and
  - have an integral role in the implementation of this, and subsequent, women's health plans.

4. Professor Anna Glasier OBE was [appointed](#) as the first Women's Health Champion for Scotland on 26 January 2023.
5. Professor Glasier has published three updates to date:
  - April 2023 - [My first update as Women's Health Champion](#)
  - July 2023 - [Five enjoyable months](#)
  - October 2023 - [Women's Health Champion Autumn update](#)

## Today's meeting

6. At today's meeting, the Committee will take evidence from the Women's Health Champion, and accompanying officials.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**16 November 2023**