

Dear colleague,

'Building on Strong Foundations: Shaping the future of health and care quality regulation'

Today we have published '[Building on strong foundations: Shaping the future of health and care quality regulation](#)', a discussion document on [our strategy for 2016-21](#). We would like to invite you to share your views on this paper. We are [also asking for your views on how to further develop our approach to hospital inspections](#).

Developing CQC's 2016-21 strategy

In our [2013-16 strategy](#), we set out fundamental changes to our regulatory model. These changes have resulted in a more robust and transparent way of inspecting and rating providers that is giving a comprehensive insight into the quality of health and social care. We will complete comprehensive inspections of all services that we rate by the end of 2016. This will provide powerful insight about the quality of health and adult social care services in England.

However there is further to go. Our next strategy for 2016-21, which we will publish in April 2016, will set out the case for developing our approach, building on the strong foundations we now have in place. We will seek to evolve our model further to ensure that it is flexible and responsive enough to keep pace with the sectors we regulate.

['Building on Strong Foundations: Shaping the future of health and care quality regulation'](#), sets out the opportunities we face in evolving our regulatory approach, and some of the choices for responding.

It is vital that our plans for improving health and social care regulation are informed by the expertise and experience of those people who commission, support, regulate, deliver and use services. Today's discussion document reflects conversations with providers, public, professionals, stakeholders, CQC staff and commissioners, and more than 700 responses to an online survey.

The responses we receive to ['Building on Strong Foundations: Shaping the future of health and care quality regulation'](#) will help to further shape and refine our thinking ahead of a further consultation on our draft strategy which we will be launching in January 2016.

The next phase of our hospital inspections

By June 2016, all acute, mental health and community NHS trusts will have been inspected and rated using our new methodology.

Alongside wanting your views on our CQC strategy for 2016-21, we also welcome your feedback on developments that we could make once the current programme of hospital inspections ends.

Taking into account our learning from our hospital inspections, we would like your feedback on:

- The frequency and intensity of our inspections.
- The level at which we rate and report on services.
- Our approach to assessing core services.
- Assessment of 'non core' services.
- Our approach to assessing care pathways.

We have been asked to assess the efficient and effective use of resources in NHS trusts, starting with acute trusts. We will be piloting this area of work from April 2016 and have [outlined our current thinking for your feedback](#).

We will also be asking you for further feedback on developments to our adult social care and primary medical services inspection approach next year.

How to give feedback

Many of you have already contributed to the thinking set out in these papers. We would like to thank you for your commitment to helping us continue to improve.

Please share your thoughts on the publications we have released today by 22 November 2015:

- [‘Building on Strong Foundations: Shaping the future of health and care quality regulation’](#) – share your views through [this web form](#) or by emailing strategyconsultation@cqcc.org.uk
- Share your thoughts on the next phase of hospital inspections and [our proposals on how we could assess NHS trusts’ use of resources](#) by emailing: hospitalsconsultation@cqcc.org.uk.
- We will also continue to host discussions and reviews about the way we work on our online community for the public. If you are not already a member, please [sign up here](#).

We would also encourage you to share the detail from this letter far and wide through your networks so we can make sure we have heard from as wide a range of people as possible.

We will use your feedback as we develop our final proposals for further consultation in January 2016.

Yours sincerely

David Behan
Chief Executive
Care Quality Commission