

Easy read summary

NHS governance



Easy
Read
made by



Disability
Equality
Scotland



made with
photosymbols®



AUDIT SCOTLAND



Governance is the rules about ways of working and how decisions are made in an organisation.

Scotland's health service must change if it is going to stay:



- **affordable** – not too expensive
- and **sustainable** – that it will work well in the future.

Getting NHS governance right is an important part of that.



NHS governance includes looking at:

- how the NHS is run
- how it works to:
 - make people's health better
 - provide high quality healthcare services that work well.





NHS governance has complicated arrangements that can make it difficult to make the changes the NHS needs.

NHS Scotland has 22 health boards:

- 14 territorial health boards that:
 - plan and deliver frontline health care services
 - protect and improve the health of the people who live there



- 8 national health boards.

They provide services that cover all parts of Scotland like NHS24 and the Scottish Ambulance Service.



They are overseen by the Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer of NHS Scotland who are part of the Scottish Government.



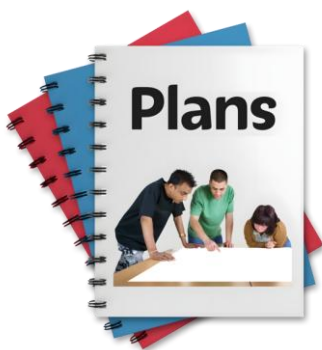
There are a mix of local, regional and national partners involved in planning health care services.



This makes it difficult to make decisions and to sometimes know who is responsible for getting work done.



NHS boards cannot always change as much as they would like because of limits set by the Scottish Government on money, policy and planning.



This year there will be:

- a new planning framework to decide how work will happen
- new national plans to make services better.



This should make it easier for health boards to work together to make changes.



Ministers need to make sure it is clear to see who is responsible for:

- making decisions
- making sure services work well and that work is done.



NHS boards are using a plan called [the Blueprint for Good Governance](#) to make their governance better.

The plans should also be checked by organisations that are not part of the NHS.



This could help to show which boards do not have good governance and need support.



There is more work for boards to do:

- to set a clear direction
- to work with others to:
 - make changes
 - have a future where services still work well.

