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NHS Board Chief Executives
CC: NHS Board Chairs

15 August 2019

Dear Colleague

Leadership of Volunteering in NHSScotland: Recommendations

I am writing to bring to your attention the revised model of the leadership of Volunteering in NHSScotland that has been endorsed and recommended by the National Group for Volunteering.

The [National Group for Volunteering](#) is a strategic group that oversees the development of the activities undertaken by the Volunteering in NHSScotland Programme and provides national leadership and guidance to ensure a long term vision, consistency of approach and support for volunteering across NHS Scotland. It is chaired by Tom Steele, Chair of the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Scotland has a long and proud tradition of volunteering in health settings, and the safety of patients and the staff and volunteers who work within, and for, the NHS in Scotland is a priority for the Scottish Government and for NHS Scotland.

The Director Letter [DL \(2017\) 07](#), issued in May 2017, made reference to the Lampard Report and reinforced the need for robust governance arrangements with regards to directly and indirectly engaged volunteers.

The recommended model sets out a case for greater clarity over the leadership and governance of volunteering across NHSScotland.

The model proposes the retention of the Executive-level governance that would oversee volunteering, supported by a Strategic Lead for volunteering and volunteer managers and other staff who carry out the operational delivery of a volunteering programme.

The attached paper explains the rationale behind the model and outlines the suggested remit of each role. The paper can also be accessed through [Scottish Health Council website](#).

I would welcome your support in implementing this model in your local Health Board. As a first step could you please contact Alan Bigham (contact details below) to confirm the nominated Executive and Strategic Leads for your organisation by 30 September 2019.

If you have any questions or require further support to consider how best to apply the model in your area please contact: Jolanta Lisicka at the Scottish Government, t: 0131 244 2251, email: Jolanta.Lisicka@gov.scot; or Alan Bigham, Programme Manager (Volunteering) at the Scottish Health Council, t: 0141 227 3266, email: alan.bigham@nhs.net.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Leitch', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

JASON LEITCH
NATIONAL CLINICAL DIRECTOR