

**PE1424/B**

Dumfries & Galloway Third Sector Forum – response to Public Petitions Committee meeting 17<sup>th</sup> April

The debate focussed on health service provision, as that was the focus of the Audit Scotland Report, overlooking the importance of wellbeing. Provision of coordinated and community transport provides a preventative function and promotes improved quality of life.

We are disappointed that the two best practice examples we quoted in our submission both have uncertain futures. Buchan has had funding withdrawn from its NHS board and can no longer provide transport to hospital appointments. The Wigtownshire Rural Transport Solutions project has proven successful, but as yet there are no confirmed future plans to continue or roll out this approach.

We urge the Scottish Parliament to acknowledge that proven best practice examples must continue and be rolled out across the country and that the Scottish Ambulance Service, in partnership with Health Boards and Transport Partnerships be given renewed impetus to implement the findings of the Audit Scotland Report.

14 June 2012