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Euan Jardine, Lucy O'Leary and Karen Hamilton  
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Our Reference: 202200334220  
Your Reference: NCS Pathfinder

19 December 2022

Dear Euan Jardine, Lucy O'Leary and Karen Hamilton,

Thank you for your letter of 5 December concerning the National Care Service and the possibility of the Borders being a pathfinder for delivery in a remote and rural area.

I welcome your interest in engaging with the Scottish Government on approaches to delivering NCS priorities in the Borders. Engagement with our partners and co-design with people with lived experience will be key to the successful delivery of this policy, and I am keen to ensure that localism and local stewardship is embedded into development of the NCS. I would be grateful if you would contact Stephen O'Neill in the NCS Local team at [stephen.o'neill3@gov.scot](mailto:stephen.o'neill3@gov.scot) to discuss how best to approach this process.

Yours sincerely

**KEVIN STEWART**

