



## **Spread and sustainability research theme: innovation - identifying steps to transformative change**

### ***Background and aim***

Innovation may make current systems more efficient, faster, smarter, or cheaper, but longer term viability in the future requires a more radical reconfiguration. The search for a more transformative response is already well underway in isolated pockets of strategy, policy, theory and practice around the world. There is a nascent 'culture of transformative innovation' in research, policy and practice in this field in Scotland and with links to others around the world, SISCC has spear-headed exploration of this theme in more depth.

### ***Progress – planning implementation and evaluation***

The highlight for the innovation work this year has been a successful bid to the Scottish Universities Insight Institute to explore cultures of transformative innovation in health and social care. The work is taking place over six months from March to September 2016 and is nearing completion. The project brings together researchers, practitioners and policy-makers in a series of workshops, which aim to marry theory and practice and establish how best to foster a mutually supportive culture to enable transformation in health and social care.

A report from our two-day international transformative innovation workshop held in June 2016 is currently in production. What is emerging is a recognition that transformative innovation needs different kinds of support at different stages in its development – from start-up, to growing and spreading, to transformation of the mainstream, whereby people and resources are released to work in a new way.

### ***Next steps***

In Year 3 SISCC will focus its enquiry on the last phase of this process, identifying what it takes to shift from radical innovation at the margins of the health and social care system to making this way the new 'business as usual'. Building on the success of the SUII project and following consultation and agreement with the Executive Group and core partners, SISCC is investing funding for innovation to explore this question over the next three years. The first focus of the work will be the SHINE project in Fife, a successful initiative funded in part by the Health Foundation that provides person-centred relational care for older people. This work will help to identify barriers to building radical innovation into the health and social care system, and strategies to enable this to happen more quickly. Learning from this work will inform the next stage, in which we will seek to identify other candidate developments for future evaluation.