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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Social Work &amp; Social Care Scrutiny Panel</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14 May 2024</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Kate Rocks Chief Officer Inverclyde HSCP</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>SWSCSP/15/2024/JH</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>National Care Service Update</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update members of the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel regarding the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill and national developments in this regard.
- 1.3 Within the last verbal update to the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 12 March 2024, members were advised that the Bill returned to the Scottish Parliament on 28 February 2024.
- 1.4 Further activity has taken place nationally, including meetings of COSLA and Scottish Government representatives as well as operational updates to the national Chief Social Work Officers Committee.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members of the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel are asked to note the update on national activity around the proposed National Care Service Bill.

**Kate Rocks  
Chief Officer  
Inverclyde HSCP**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Following Stage 1 reading on 28 February 2024, the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill has proceeded to Stage 2, where MSPs have the opportunity to propose amendments. This stage involves detailed scrutiny of the Bill's provisions, including consideration of further amendments.
- 3.2 The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee continue to meet to consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 2. Matters pertaining to the National Care Service, including any papers, however, continue to be taken in private.
- 3.3 A key change at Stage 2 will be the plan to establish a new National Care Service (NCS) Board including Scottish Government, Local Government, NHS and people with lived experience as a minimum. The NCS Board would provide oversight and governance of social work, social care and community health services, including an improvement framework, embedding good practice and supporting local areas when standards or needs are not being met, informed by further co-design work.
- 3.4 Reformed Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) would be accountable to the NCS Board whilst local authorities and NHS would retain existing responsibilities, staff and assets.
- 3.5 Regular tri-partite meetings between the Scottish Government, NHS and Local Government have continued; IJB Chief Officers are now also represented within this forum. Meanwhile, a recently established Local Government Advisory Group is jointly chaired by COSLA and SOLACE, to consider the challenges around the development of the National Care Service. This group also includes representatives from SOLAR, SPDS, Social Work Scotland and Directors of Finance.
- 3.6 COSLA and Scottish Government officials have continued to meet to consider the options pertaining to the place of children's and justice social work services within the proposed model for the NCS.
- 3.7 Challenges continue around options that reflect the different delegation arrangements currently in place for children and justice social work services across Scotland, as well as the aim to reduce geographical variations in the scope of the NCS whilst ensuring the design, development and delivery of services reflect local needs.
- 3.8 As members are aware, the National Social Work Agency (NSWA) was introduced within a Policy Memorandum accompanying the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill to provide national leadership and to oversee social work education, improvement, workforce planning and training. Arrangements for how the NSWA would be established and implemented remain subject to ongoing discussion with partners through a national advisory group.
- 3.9 Representatives from COSLA, the office of the Chief Social Work Advisor, Social Work Scotland, Scottish Government and Local Government advisers are considering the potential form and governance arrangements for a NSWA.
- 3.10 This includes whether the NSWA would be an Executive Agency (part of the Scottish Government but a separate public body) or a Non-Departmental Public Body (not part of the Scottish Government).
- 3.11 Discussion with Local Government advisors, including SOLACE and Chief Social Work Officers has emphasised the importance of a meaningful partnership approach between Local and Scottish Government and Social Work Scotland, with clear accountability arrangements, particularly regarding the role of the Chief Social Work Officer. It is expected that a formal options appraisal will take place in the near future to inform this discussion.

#### 4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Chief Social Work Officer, through the national Chief Social Work Officer Committee (Social Work Scotland) shall continue to contribute to ongoing discussions about the proposed National Care Service and National Social Work Agency and the potential implications for provision of quality social work and social care services in Inverclyde.
- 4.2 A further report can be brought to a future meeting of the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel as appropriate.

#### 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

#### 5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

#### 5.3 Legal/Risk

N/A

#### 5.4 Human Resources

N/A

#### 5.5 Strategic

N/A

## 5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

N/A

### (a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

### (b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

### (c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

## 5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

## 5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A

## 7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 N/A