
Report To:	Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel	Date:	27 August 2024
Report By:	Kate Rocks Chief Officer Inverclyde HSCP	Report No:	SWSCSP/25/2024/JH
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Subject:	National Care Service Update		

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 update report to the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 14 May 2024, members were advised that Stage 2 scrutiny of the Bill had commenced, within which options continued to be explored for children's services and justice social work within the proposed model for the National Care Service (NCS).
- 1.4 National activity has continued to take place, including meetings of COSLA and Scottish Government representatives as well as some 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 On 24 June 2024, the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport wrote to Parliament to provide further details on the development of the National Care Service. This included a package of documents which sets out the changes to the Bill that the Scottish Government proposes to make at Stage 2.
- 3.2 Formal Stage 2 process is expected to continue until December 2024. This is expected to reflect complex policy commitments including the Promise, embedding Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and children’s rights, along with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 which came into force in July 2024.
- 3.3 A number of areas continue to be identified where further work is required to seek national agreement between Local Government and Scottish Government, including:
- Funding arrangements for reformed integration authorities
 - Whether children’s services would be included in the NCS
 - Whether justice social work would be included in the NCS
 - Powers related to the membership of Integration Authority Boards.
- 3.4 The Health and Sport Committee will take evidence and continue to consult on Stage 2 of the Bill during the remainder of the year.

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

(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.