



Scrutiny Bodies Project: health and care

October 2009
issue 5

Public information bulletin on the development of Scotland's new scrutiny bodies for 2011

Introduction

This is our fifth information bulletin about the creation of the new improvement and scrutiny bodies for healthcare and for social work and social care services due to start in April 2011.

We publish this bulletin every six weeks and circulate it widely to those with an interest in health and care. The latest version and previous bulletins are available at www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny

Your comments, questions and feedback are welcome by email to: NSB2011@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Public Services Reform Bill Update

The Public Services Reform Bill, which contains the provisions to establish the two new improvement and scrutiny bodies for healthcare and for social care and social work, was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 28 May 2009. Since then the Finance (lead), Health and Education Committees have been gathering evidence from stakeholders on the proposals to create the new scrutiny bodies. The Scrutiny Bodies Project team, the Chief Executive Officers of all the bodies affected and the Ministers for Public Health and Sport and for Children and Early Years all appeared before Committees during September. Many stakeholders with an interest in our proposals from the Children's Commissioner, Community Care Providers Scotland, Association of Directors of Social Work, the Scottish Health Council, Scottish Independent Hospitals Association and NHS Board Chiefs among others have also appeared before the Committees. Links to the official reports of the Committees' consideration of the provisions in the Bill are available at our website (www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/health/scrutiny/links).

The main issues that were raised include:

- consultation on the Bill;
- costs/savings of the proposals;
- staff morale during the transition;
- the SCSWIS name;
- the status of bodies;
- meeting the Crerar Review aims;
- the difference between scrutiny and improvement;

- changes to the complaints process;
- regulation of independent healthcare services;
- the future of the Mental Welfare Commission;
- access to individual health records;
- the future of the Scottish Health Council;
- Stage 2 amendments; and
- fees.

The Finance Committee did not specifically consider the provisions for the health, care and social work bodies, as they will receive reports from the Health and Education Committees. They instead focussed on costs, savings and the enabling powers contained in the Public Services Reform Bill.

It is worth noting that, while there is broad consensus for the principles of public service reform and scrutiny improvement, until the legislation has been approved after full parliamentary process, it is still subject to change and amendment. We will of course let you know in this bulletin when and where legislation is tweaked by the Committee. The opportunity to change the legislation (including issues such as the name of the bodies) will primarily take place during the detailed scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 2.

Stage 1 of the Bill will last until the end of this year: we expect the Finance Committee to publish its report on the Bill (taking account of the reports of the other Committees) at the end of November and the Stage 1 Debate in the Parliament to follow mid-December. The Bill should have completed its passage through Parliament by Spring 2010 when, subject to Parliamentary approval, it will become an Act of the Scottish Parliament with the new bodies operational from April 2011.

Themed Task Teams Update

The themed task teams (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/WhosWho) met on 16 September to discuss their final reports and to prepare a summary paper for the Change Delivery Group (CDG).

The task teams have worked their socks off over the summer period to come up with ideas and test these with a wide range of stakeholders. This has now led to the production of a set of recommendations for the CDG to take forward. They should be congratulated for all their hard work! The summary and final task team reports will be available at our website (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/Links).

The CDG met on 24 September and considered the task team reports and a proposal on developing business models. The CDG commented on the task team reports and agreed their recommendations in principle. They also agreed the approach to developing the business models (ie developing organisational structures and procedures to meet the business needs).

The reports will be submitted to the Programme Board with commentary on how to action the recommendations. The recommendations will also be considered as the work on developing business models progresses. This work will commence in October and involve as many stakeholders as possible, including staff of the affected bodies. This will take us up to the end of the year and stand us in good stead for the shadow arrangements coming into place in 2010.

What happens next?

The Scrutiny Bodies Project website (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny) has details of the project structure, timeline for the scrutiny bodies project and links to Bill and other relevant documents. We will continue to keep you informed of the outcomes of the business modelling work as things progress.

Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Update

Results of online survey

In total we received 20 responses to our online survey on how useful these bulletins and our website are to stakeholders. Overall, the results were positive. No one surveyed found the bulletin unhelpful, while the majority found it helpful, timely, relevant and interesting. We will be looking at how we can use the positive suggestions we received through the survey to continue to make the bulletin and website fit-for-purpose.

The survey was a chance for the Scrutiny Bodies Project team to hear views and there will be another chance for people to express their views in six months time when we will run another survey. In the meantime if you have any comments or suggestions on our communications please e-mail NSB2011@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or phone 0131 244 1707.

Conference for service users and their carers and equality organisations – 26 June 2009

The conference was attended by over 100 people and was very successful in gaining the views of this group. A summary of the event is now available online (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/PublicEvent). Copies have been sent to everyone who applied to attend the conference. A limited number of hard copies are available by contacting us via email NSB2011@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or phone on 0131 244 1707.

The summary was produced by the Scrutiny Bodies Team and the Care Commission's Communication Team and stands testament to the success of the day in engaging with equality groups, users, carers and their families. We of course need to continue to engage with this important group as things progress. That is why a "User Narrative" has now been developed to help explain these changes in simple terms to users, their carers and their families. The narrative which will be refined as we go along is available at (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/Links/UserNarrative).

Thanks again to all those who were involved in making the day such a great success!

Seminar for service providers – 25 August 2009

Umbrella organisations representing service providers were invited to attend a seminar at the end of August to bring them up to speed on the new improvement and scrutiny bodies. The Scottish Pre-School Association, Scottish Care, Community Care Providers Scotland, BAAF (Adoption and Fostering), Play Scotland, CHAS (Children's Hospices), National Day-Nurseries Association, NAAPS (Adult Placement), the Scottish Partnership Palliative Care, Scottish Out-of-School Care Network, the Scottish Childminding Association and Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations all attended the event. The organisations agreed to filter information about the changes to over 15,000 service providers in Scotland affected by the changes to the new scrutiny bodies. Some of the representatives will also be participating in the project through the stakeholder reference groups. We will continue to engage with providers as the project moves forward.

Next Bulletin

The next bulletin is scheduled to issue mid-November and will be followed by an issue in early January.

Find out more

The website www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny contains the latest information for the project and includes a frequently asked questions section. If you have any comments or suggestions on this bulletin, please send them to the project team at NSB2011@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

