

Scottish Government

Healthcare Improvement Scotland

Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland

The new scrutiny and improvement bodies for social care, social work, children's services and healthcare services

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Work that is underway.....

The project plan was agreed at the recent meeting of the Programme Board. Governance groups have been established to oversee both the Social care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) strands of the project and they met recently, identified priorities and commissioned work on the key tasks. This work will include the production of draft operating plans for the new organisations; development of the IT arrangements for SCSWIS and HIS; HR issues; appointment of chairs and chief executives and preparing staff for the new organisations. We will report progress against these and other tasks in future bulletins. The governance groups will meet monthly to monitor progress. The project plan chart on the website sets out the overall plan.

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/Links/PlanSummary

PSR Bill update

Stage 3 of the bill was completed on 25 March. A small number of amendments were made at Stages 2 and 3 for the parts of the bill that affects SCSWIS and HIS.

The main changes you will wish to note are:

- changes to require **SCSWIS and HIS to develop inspection plans in line with best regulatory practice**. This will allow the new bodies to develop risk based and proportionate plans for inspections and move away from cyclical inspections based on minimum frequencies set out in legislation
- new provision to allow **emergency cancellation of registration** and emergency condition notices which can take effect immediately
- new duties - to require local authorities and health boards to **take account of SCSWIS and HIS reports** when commissioning or contracting for services.
- a new definition for **'an independent ambulance service'**
- some minor amendments to the provisions for the **Scottish Social Services Council** in the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001
- some changes to the provisions relating to the **Mental Welfare Commission (MWCS)** in the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. The purpose of these changes is to focus its role as a protective body, ensure joined up working arrangements with the new scrutiny bodies and make changes to its structure.

New provisions have been inserted in Part 6 in relation to **complaints handling** by the Ombudsman in the Scottish Public Services Ombudsmen Act 2002. The aim of these amendments is to bring about a simpler, more consistent and more effective approach to dealing with complaints about public services. The Ombudsman must publish a statement of principles concerning relevant complaints-handling procedures of bodies and persons that are listed in schedule 2 to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002. The Ombudsman will have powers to publish model complaints-handling procedures and to specify who must comply with them. SCSWIS and HIS will be expected to comply with these procedures when dealing with complaints about how they have exercised their own functions. They will also be expected to take them into account when dealing with complaints from services users about care or independent healthcare services. **SCSWIS must now consult the Ombudsman** when drawing up their complaints procedure (in place of Scottish Ministers) and both **SCSWIS and HIS must consult the Ombudsman** when drawing up their procedures for handling complaints from users of care and healthcare services.

After Stage 3 a new print of the bill is produced showing all amendments made. A final (renumbered) print is produced once it has received Royal Assent is then produced of the new Act. These are published on the PSR Bill page on the Scottish Parliament website.



Appointments update

We will soon be advertising for the Chairs for both SCSWIS and HIS. We expect adverts to appear soon and they will be publicised on the Scottish Government's Public Appointments website www.appointed-for-scotland.org

Stakeholder update

An updated communication strategy has been developed by the communications and stakeholder engagement group.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/Links/CommsStrat2010>

The group felt it important to review the strategy and be clear about what the key messages were for stakeholders, which includes those who work in the four bodies, what information they should receive over the next few months.

Members of the project team have attended a number of stakeholder events recently, including with NHS Scotland Accountable officers, also met with Chief Social Work Officers. The project team is considering further stakeholder events up to 2011 including events for providers, people who use services, their carers and families. Details will be in future bulletins.

Comments or questions

If you have any comments or questions on the project, please contact the team
By e-mail NSB2011@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Or write to Area 3G-South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Useful links

Scottish Parliament – www.scottish.parliament.co.uk
Scrutiny Bodies website – www.scotland.gsi.gov.uk/topics/health/scrutiny

The next public information bulletin will be issued in April 2010.

