



Scrutiny Bodies Project: health and care

November 2009
issue 6

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

Introduction

This is our **sixth** 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 Health and Sport Committee submitted its report

www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/reports-09/her09-pt4-5_psr_bill.htm

and the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee, its report

www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ellc/reports-09/edr09-psrb_stage1.htm on 12 October 2009. The

Subordinate Legislation Committee also considered the legislative provisions in the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Bill as a whole and submitted a report

www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/reports-09/sur09-psr_bill_stage1.htm

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, John Swinney gave evidence to the Finance Committee on 27 October. The Committee did not question him on the proposals to establish the new scrutiny bodies, instead focusing their questions mainly on the order-making powers which are contained in Part 2 of the Bill. A transcript of his Committee appearance is available at the Parliament website

www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/finance/or-09/fi09-2401.htm.

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. The Stage 1 Debate in the Parliament on the general principles of the Bill has been moved to after the Christmas break and will now take place on 7 January 2010. A group has been established to look at the secondary legislation some of which we have committed to providing to the Parliament before Stage 2. The members of this group are made up of operational and legal specialists from the existing bodies, Scottish Government policy and legal colleagues

along with members of the project team. The group will meet regularly to refine and develop the regulations in readiness for Stage 2's detailed (line by line) scrutiny of the Bill and proposed amendments.

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 being operational from April 2011.

Themed Task Teams Update

The Programme Board last month considered and was content with the themed task teams' recommendations. The summary and final task team reports are available at our website www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/Links. The Change Delivery Group was also content with the Project Team's approach to build on this work in developing business models for the two new bodies. Co-ordinating teams with representatives from the existing bodies have now been brought together to take forward business modelling work for SCSWIS and for HIS. The SCSWIS and HIS business models are being tested with stakeholders and the emerging proposals for SCSWIS and HIS were submitted to the Change Delivery Group on 19 November. Further work will continue until the new year. We hope that there will be enough agreement around the business models to allow us to start considering operational structures in January. The Change Delivery Group also considered proposals for business continuity and transition planning at its recent meeting.

Appointments to SCSWIS and HIS

An Appointments Strategy for taking forward Chief Executive, Chair and Board appointments is being prepared for the Programme Board, and some preparatory work has begun with the help of the Public Appointments team in the Scottish Government's Health Department. Care has to be taken over the timing of these appointments so as not to pre-empt the Parliamentary process, and it is unlikely that appointments can be made until mid-2010. We will provide more details on the appointments plans early in 2010.

Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Update

Since the last bulletin the Project Team have engaged with British Dental Association and the National Day Nurseries Association, as well as attending the NHS QIS Liaison Co-ordinators meeting. The Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Group will continue to respond to requests for updates from different stakeholders.

Next Bulletin

The next bulletin is scheduled to issue in January enabling us to report on the end of Stage 1 for the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Bill and other progress with the project by then.

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