

Welcome to our first Justice and the National Care Service Monthly Update. The purpose of this e-newsletter is, to provide interested parties with, an update on how work to support the decision on whether justice social work becomes part of the National Care Service or not is developing. At this point in time no decision has been taken and the Scottish Government is leading work to support a decision being reached.

Background

National Care Service

The Independent Review into Adult Social Care (IRASC) recommended the establishment of a National Care Service. The creation of a National Care Service is about improving people's lives so they can thrive and lead a full life. It will provide support to anyone in Scotland who needs it through social work, social care and support for carers, and by planning and commissioning primary care and community health services with human rights at its heart.

The National Care Service will oversee the delivery of care, improve standards, ensure enhanced pay and conditions for workers, and provide better support for unpaid carers. As the Scottish Government builds the National Care Service, it is essential to listen to the voices of the real experts: people who use community health and social care, their unpaid carers, and the staff who provide it, listening to their needs and acting on what they say.

The National Care Service and Justice

The Scottish Government introduced the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill to Parliament on 20 June 2022. The National Care Service (Scotland) Bill includes a power to transfer local authority functions to the NCS (care boards or Scottish Ministers) by secondary legislation. The scope of this power includes justice and children's social work and social care services.

The Bill requires a public consultation to be undertaken on the transfer of functions. For justice, this will address some of the consultation responses to the Bill, which said that more detail was required on the possible inclusion of justice social work services within a future NCS. Stakeholders highlighted a lack of evidence and there was a request for further research, analysis, and consultation to be undertaken before a decision is made.

If you would like to know more about the National Care Service and how the boarder work is developing you can sign up to an update newsletter by emailing up via the following link <http://eepurl.com/ifloU1>

Key Messages and Frequently Asked Questions

The team and the Reference Group has developed a set of key messages about the work.

The decision to include Justice Social Work within NCS rests with Scottish Government Ministers

- This decision will be informed by evidence, collaboration, an options appraisal and a public consultation

- Work on the NCS Bill will continue on the basis Justice Social Work will be included to ensure that it is captured and in the design and delivery model, however this does not mean a decision has been made
- This is not a review of the role of Justice Social Work but consideration of its future delivery
- The work will be led by the Scottish Government, supported by a Reference Group of key stakeholders
- Transparency and openness will be fundamental
- The JSW workforce and people with lived experience will be engaged throughout the process
- The views of the wider public will be reflected as part of a public consultation
- The timeline has been designed to align to the work of Children and Families and the development of NCS
- The research will establish a robust understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of current and prospective models.

If you have a question please submit it to
NCSJustice@gov.scot

Research

Ipsos Scotland and Professor Beth Weaver (University of Strathclyde) have been appointed to undertake a programme of research to provide evidence on the strengths and weaknesses of current practice, and the prospective implications of the inclusion, or not, of justice social work within a future NCS.

The programme of work includes:

- a literature review to inform understanding of the opportunities and challenges of including JSW in the NCS (or not)
- 4 or 5 case studies to examine how justice social work services are currently being delivered and varying pragmatic approaches that services may take to practical issues
- qualitative interviews with stakeholders, likely to be sampled from the 4-5 case study local authorities.

The interim research findings (of the literature review stage) are expected by the end of February 2023 and will help to inform the Scottish Government's options appraisal process. Case studies and interviews will take place from March until the end of May 2023 with the finding being presented in August 2023.

Options Appraisal

This is your chance to have a say in how JSW services could operate in the future when a decision is taken on the inclusion or not to the NCS. The team will be holding four days of in person workshops. Find the links below to sign up. We have limited numbers so please sign up quickly if you wish to attend!

Note: We appreciate these initial locations may not suit rural/island communities, more details on how we will reach you will be included in our next newsletter (March)

Edinburgh (21 March)

Workforce - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/547722672257>

Stakeholders - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/547733855707>

Inverness (23rd March)

Workforce - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/547749402207>

Stakeholders - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/547753123337>

Glasgow (28 March)

Workforce - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/547745711167>

Stakeholders - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/547747295907>

Ayr (30 March)

Workforce - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/547755319907>

Stakeholders - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/547756874557>

Meet the Reference Group

Our Justice NCS reference group has been established since November 2022. The members are from our justice stakeholder organisations (as listed below) and they play a vital part in providing their views as the work is progressed.

Membership;

Community Justice Scotland

Social Work Scotland

Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum

Scottish Association of Social Workers

Risk Management Authority

COSLA

Victims Organisations Collaboration Forum Scotland

Care Inspectorate

Scottish Government

Office of the Chief Social Work Officer (SG)

JSW Workforce Panel

A justice social work workforce panel is currently be established. This will be a small group of approximately 10 -15 frontline JSW practitioners who will meet regularly over MS Teams. The panel will be representative of both social worker and para-professional staff and we would welcome representations from different geographical locations and specialist teams within JSW to gain the broadest perspective possible.

This panel will offer an invaluable practice perspective on any forthcoming proposals which will assist Scottish Government officials tasked with providing advice to Ministers. Involvement in the workforce panel offers a unique opportunity for practitioners working in all aspects of JSW to contribute to this decision making process. They will provide an enhanced input and ensure that the views of the workforce are reflected at key points in the process. A full terms of reference was sent to jsw service managers last week by Social Work Scotland for onward circulation, inviting notes of interest to be submitted to NCSJustice@gov.scot.

For further details or any queries please contact Susan.Thompson2@gov.scot

Keep in touch!

If you didn't receive this email directly and would like to sign up for future updates please email NCSJustice@gov.scot

If you have any questions or comments on the e-newsletter please email them to NCSJustice@gov.scot