

# PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

25 October 2021

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: NATIONAL CARE SERVICE

Report by Interim Chief Executive  
(Report No. 21/185)

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report provides information in support of a response to the Scottish Government consultation on the creation of a National Care Service (NCS). The deadline for a response is 2 November 2021. The establishment of a NCS proposes significant and radical change for local government and proposes an outline structure to support service delivery for all social care and social work services.

### **1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 On 1 September 2020, the First Minister announced that there would be an Independent Review of Adult Social Care (IRASC) in Scotland as part of the Programme for Government. The Review was chaired by Derek Feeley, a former Scottish Government Director General for Health and Social Care and Chief Executive of NHS Scotland.
- 1.2 The Independent Review concluded at the end of January 2021 following consultation with people who receive services, their carers, staff and service providers. Its report was published on 3 February 2021 ([Adult social care: independent review](#)). The report is referred to as the Feeley Report. The Scottish Government had stated that the principal aim of the review was “to recommend improvements to adult social care in Scotland, primarily in terms of the outcomes achieved by and with people who use services, their carers and families, and the experience of people who work in adult social care.”
- 1.3 There has been widespread support for the ethos and values expressed in the Feeley Report. The recommendation for the establishment of a NCS raised questions about how that would operate. A consultation on the detail of the review’s proposals had been expected. The consultation paper on the National Care Service ([A National Care Service for Scotland: consultation](#)) was published on 9 August 2021 and goes much further than had been previously anticipated. The proposal now seeks views on the establishment of a NCS with responsibility for children’s services, justice social work services, social work and social care and nursing, prison health and social care, alcohol and drug services, and some mental health services.
- 1.4 The original deadline for response was mid-October. However, that was extended to 2 November 2021. The Scottish Government will analyse the responses and the conclusions will be used to shape and develop new legislation. It is anticipated that this will be introduced in the Scottish Parliament in summer 2022.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 The consultation proposes that the creation of a National Care Service provides an opportunity to deliver transformational change to the way care and support is delivered to adults in Scotland, moving away from a focus on risk and instead focusing on enabling people to access the care and support that they need to lead a full life. This will mean significantly changing the way care and support services are designed, so that prevention and early intervention is prioritised and people can move, easily, between different types of care and support as their needs change. It is suggested that a NCS will create consistency in service delivery across Scotland and eliminate a postcode lottery for care.
- 2.2 It is proposed that Integrated Joint Boards (IJBs) will be reformed and will become Community Health and Social Care Boards (CHSCBs) which will become the local delivery body for the National Care Service. These CHSCBs will be funded directly from the Scottish Government and will be accountable to Ministers.
- 2.3 Whilst the Independent Review has examined adult social care and provides an evidence base for further reform and improvement, there has been no corresponding review which relates to the proposed structural change for services for children, criminal justice, wider social work and social care, alcohol and drugs services or mental health services. The Independent Care Review which reported in February 2020 in the Promise makes recommendations for whole system change to improve outcomes for care experienced children and young people but did not go as far to advocate such structural change. This, and the lack of detail about how the proposals will be put into effect, makes it difficult to answer all of the questions in the consultation and to effectively assess the benefits and risks associated with the proposals.
- 2.4 The consultation notes that the proposals for a NCS will have a 'cost to the public purse' but no further details are provided on finance other than to indicate that the Scottish Government has committed to increase investment in adult social care by 25%. It is unclear what time period this relates to or whether this will be sufficient to fund the proposals contained in the consultation.
- 2.5 On 16 September, a briefing session was convened with Elected Members to help inform a Perth and Kinross Council response. It was noted that there was a limited evidence base to formulate decisions on the wider application of the proposals. The Council's response includes a factual account of the Council's track record in delivering high quality services based on strategic assessment of need and the commitment to transformation towards early intervention and prevention over many years that is evidence in the findings of external scrutiny.

### 3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 Perth and Kinross Council's response to the Scottish Government consultation on proposals to establish a National Care Service (NCS) is made having regard to the policy and legislative framework for local government in Scotland. The Council's response draws attention to the extent the Council has fulfilled its statutory duties consistently for services and functions which are within the proposed scope of the NCS. The Council's commitment to high quality of service delivery, strong performance nationally, and continuous improvement within social work and social care services over many years is referenced. Evidence of Council investment in transformation, service redesign and transformation to achieve high performance and outstanding outcomes in the context of prevention and earlier intervention is also described. Where there is insufficient detail to respond with confidence to the proposal, questions have been posed. With a key focus on the possible impact on people who receive services and the workforce, potential risks and benefits have been identified.

3.2 It is recommended that Council:

- (i) approves the content of the Consultation response under the six headings, as attached at Appendix 1; and
- (ii) requests that the Interim Chief Executive submits a response to the Scottish Government in the required format by the due date of 2 November 2021.

#### Author(s)

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#### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Interim Chief Executive	29 September 2021

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes/None</b>
Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement	<b>None</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>None</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>None</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>None</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>None</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>None</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>None</b>
Risk	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>None</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>None</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

1.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

2.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

#### Workforce

2.2 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

#### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

### 3. Assessments

#### 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

Assessed as not relevant for the purposes of EqIA

### 3.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. No further action is required as the subject of this report does not qualify as a plan, programme or strategy (PPS) as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### 3.3 Sustainability

Not applicable.

### Legal and Governance

3.4 The Head of Legal & Governance is a co-author of the report.

### Risk

3.5 There are no risks associated with the report.

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

4.1 The Executive Officer Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report. A briefing/workshop was held for all elected members on the consultation document in September 2021.

### External

4.2 None

## **5. Communication**

5.1 Not applicable.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **3. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Summary response to the Scottish Government consultation on proposals to establish a National Care Service