

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL8 September 2021Report by Chief ExecutiveNational Care Service Consultation**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the proposed approach and timescales to responding to the Scottish Government's consultation on creation of a new national care service.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Council is asked to:
 - a) Note the consultation on a National Care Service;
 - b) Note that the formation of a National Care Service is likely to have significant implications for all Councils;
 - c) Note that Scottish Government have extended the deadline for responses from 18 October 2021 to 2 November 2021;
 - d) Agree to an Elected Member/Officer discussion on the 23rd of September at 4pm to explore the detail of the consultation and to provide initial comments on the proposals; and
 - e) Note that Members will have the opportunity to review and discuss the final submission at full Council on 27 October 2021 prior to submission.

BACKGROUND

3. On 1 September 2020 the Scottish Government announced that there would be an Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland. The Review was chaired by Derek Feeley, a former Scottish Government Director General for Health and Social Care and Chief Executive of NHS Scotland.
4. 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.
5. The Independent Review concluded at the end of January 2021 and the report was published on 3 February 2021.
6. The review had three recommendations:
 - i. Shift the paradigm.
To shift the national debate away from social care being a burden on society to being more focussed on human rights, prevention and social benefits.

- ii. Strengthen the foundations
To build on existing positives, including: self-directed support and the Independent Living Fund; the workforce and unpaid carers.
 - iii. Redesign the system
Create a new National Care Service, focussing on co-production and lived experience.
7. COSLA's response at the time was supportive of many of the principles while also highlighting some concerns. COSLA indicated that it wanted to work with the Scottish Government and highlighted that funding was the main underlying issue. COSLA asserted that the aims of the report could be achieved by better funding of Local Government.

NATIONAL CONSULTATION

8. The National Care consultation was launched on the 9 August 2021 and asks for responses by 2 November 2021. The consultation document can be accessed [here](#).
9. Many aspects of the consultation will be supported widely across Local Government and IJBs particularly around a human rights-based approach to care however, other elements might appear to reduce local democratic influence and localism generally.
10. The proposal being consulted on would bring considerable change to the planning and delivery of care services. The "National Care Service" (pages 49-53), "Scope of the National Care Service" (pages 54-84) and "Reformed Integration Joint Boards: Community Health and Social Care Boards" (pages 89-91) sections of the consultation sets out proposed structural changes which, if implemented, would fundamentally change on the role of Local Government and IJB's.
11. The Scottish Government's consultation goes beyond the recommendations for Adult Social Care contained in the Feeley Report. The consultation is seeking views on whether a new National Care Service should be responsible for children's services as well as adult services.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL APPROACH

12. The proposal contained within the consultation have far reaching implications for local government, including East Renfrewshire, our people and communities.
13. The Council will work closely with the IJB on developing a local response. However it is likely that the Council and IJB will each submit their own response which may differ in some key aspects.
14. The key senior officers with professional responsibility for key service areas impacted by proposals will shape our response, this will encompass social work, education, legal issues and human resources. Elected members will be offered a briefing on the detail of the proposals and be given the opportunity to inform the Council's draft response. Members will also have the opportunity to review and discuss the final submission at full Council on 27 October 2021 prior to submission.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. This consultation would mean a significant change to the funding of councils.

RECOMMENDATION

16. Council is asked to: -
- a) Note the consultation on a National Care Service;
 - b) Note that the formation of a National Care Service is likely to have significant implications for all Councils;
 - c) Note that Scottish Government have extended the deadline for responses from 18 October 2021 to 2 November 2021;
 - d) Agree to an officer/Elected member discussion on the 23rd of September to explore the detail of the consultation and provide initial comments on the proposals; and
 - e) Note that Members will have the opportunity to review and discuss the final submission at full Council on 27 October 2021 prior to submission.

REPORT AUTHOR

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive
Jamie Reid, Strategic Insight & Communities Senior Manager

BLANK PAGE