

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Strategic Planning Advisory Group
Held on	23rd February 2021
Agenda Item:	Item 9
Title:	National policy update: NCS and Audit Scotland briefing
Summary:	
<p>The purpose of this report is to bring to the SPAG's attention recent developments in the consultation process on the National Care Service and a recent briefing on Social Care produced by Audit Scotland.</p>	
Author:	John Wood, Senior Manager (Planning & Performance)
It is recommended that the SPAG:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Notes the recent publication of the responses to the National Care Service Consultation and the summary analysis; ii. Receives a verbal update from officers on further Scottish Government announcements and discusses implications for the HSCP; and note iii. Notes the Audit Scotland briefing on Social Care published in January 2022. 	
Route to meeting:	
Not applicable.	
Directions:	Implications:
1. No Directions Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran <input type="checkbox"/>	HR <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council <input type="checkbox"/>	Legal <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS <input type="checkbox"/>	Equalities <input type="checkbox"/>
	Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/>
	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	ICT <input type="checkbox"/>

National policy update: NCS and Audit Scotland briefing

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring to the SPAG's attention recent developments in the consultation process on the National Care Service and a recent briefing on Social Care produced by Audit Scotland.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1. It is recommended that the SPAG:

- i. Notes the recent publication of the [responses](#) to the National Care Service Consultation and the [summary analysis](#);
- ii. Receives a verbal update from officers on further Scottish Government announcements and discusses implications for the HSCP; and note
- iii. Notes the Audit Scotland [briefing on Social Care](#) published in January 2022.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The establishment of the National Care Service has been on the horizon for some time and follows a range of policy developments including the Independent Review of Adult Social Care (the Feeley Review). A formal consultation on the proposals took place last year to which the South Ayrshire IJB submitted a response.
- 3.2 Following the consultation, the Scottish Government have now published (February 2022) the consultation responses along with a summary analysis document. In addition, Audit Scotland produced a briefing in January 2022 outlining the key challenges faced by the social system in its entirety. Links to these documents are found below:

- [National Care Service consultation responses published - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- [National Care Service: consultation analysis - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- [Social care briefing | Audit Scotland \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](#)

- 3.3 In addition, to considering these reports, the SPAG will receive a verbal update on Ministerial announcements anticipated week beginning 21st February in relation to the National Care Service and next steps.

4. REPORT

National Care Service consultation

- 4.1. The published document states responses show ‘huge enthusiasm’ for changing the way we deliver support and services for people who use community health and social care in Scotland. Almost 1,300 responses were received from a wide range of individuals and organisations, after Ministers sought views on plans for the biggest reform of public services since the creation of the National Health Service.
- 4.2. A significant proportion of the responses came from individuals with lived experience, or bodies that represent them. The social care workforce are also well represented in the responses, along with providers, all of whom see much room for improvement.
- 4.3. The responses also highlight the risks that will emerge from such significant change, but the main theme is that change is needed, and it is needed now, as well as in the longer term.
- 4.4. Although, as described above, the primary drivers of pressure in health and social care are national, even international, in nature relating to an ageing population, greater level of ‘need’ and changes to the way people live their lives (i.e. independent of a larger family unit in smaller households) it is important to recognise that there are specific aggravating factors within South Ayrshire which make the challenge all the more complex.

Audit Scotland Briefing

- 4.5. On 27th January, Audit Scotland published a comprehensive briefing on the social care sector in Scotland: <https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/social-care-briefing>.
- 4.6. The report says fundamental issues and threats to the future sustainability of Scotland’s social care system need to be addressed. It recognised that the pandemic has exacerbated long-standing challenges, highlighting the precarious situation of many vulnerable people who rely on social care or support.

- 4.7. Audit Scotland found that despite over £5 billion a year is spent on delivering social care services, some services are at near crisis point. There needs to be a shift in how this money is used, with a far greater emphasis needed on preventative care that meets the needs of individual people. Service users do not always have a choice or say about what support works best for them. Nor are carers getting all the support and advice they need, despite existing legislation.
- 4.8. It reports that 200,000-strong workforce is under immense pressure and feels undervalued. There is a high vacancy rate and a continuing problem of recruiting and retaining this workforce into roles which often have low pay and poor conditions of employment. At the same time demand for social care services continues to increase.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

February 2022

