

Relevant and Current Policy Drivers for Community Development

Community Empowerment Bill

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/engage>

Consultation on Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill now closed

The Scottish Government received over 400 responses to the consultation on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill, from a wide range of organisations and individuals. Non-confidential responses are available on the Scottish Government website from 28 February 2014 (link provided below). The responses are now being analysed with a view to introducing a revised Bill to Parliament.

Community Engagement and Empowerment

The aim of the Bill is to enshrine community empowerment in legislation and strengthen communities role in decision making.

What is Community Empowerment?

The Scottish Government is committed to our communities being supported to do things for themselves – community empowerment – and to people having their voices heard in the planning and delivery of services – community engagement and participation.

What are the benefits of empowering communities?

Where communities are empowered we would expect to see a range of benefits: local democratic participation boosted; increased confidence and skills among local people; higher numbers of people volunteering in their communities; and more satisfaction with quality of life in a local neighbourhood. Better community engagement and participation leads to the delivery of better, more responsive services and better outcomes for communities.

What is the Scottish Government doing to empower communities in Scotland?

The Scottish Government is taking forward action in a number of areas and is working closely with partners to help to support and promote community empowerment and engagement. These pages highlight a number of policies as well as guidance and tools developed to promote community empowerment.

The Scottish Government will continue to develop this agenda working closely with COSLA, in the spirit of the concordat, and with colleagues in the third sector.

- **Christie Commission (Renewing Scotland's public services)**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Review/publicservicescommission/Remit>

Facing the most serious budget reductions for at least a generation, there is an urgent need to ensure the sustainability of Scotland's public services. At the same time we must continue to improve outcomes for the people of Scotland: by driving up the quality of services (so the average meet the standards of the best); and by redesigning services around the needs of citizens, tackling the underlying causes of those needs as well as the symptoms.

We are ambitious for Scotland's public services and wish to take them from good to excellent in every facet and in every place. We have a vision of Scotland's public services that:

- are innovative, seamless and responsive, designed around users' needs, continuously improving
- are democratically accountable to the people of Scotland at both national and local levels
- are delivered in partnership, involving local communities, their democratic representatives, and the third sector
- tackle causes as well as symptoms
- support a fair and equal society
- protect the most vulnerable in our society
- are person-centred, reliable and consistent
- are easy to navigate and access
- are appropriate to local circumstances, without inexplicable variation
- are designed and delivered close to the customer wherever possible, always high quality
- respond effectively to increasing demographic pressures
- include accessible digital services, that are easy to use and meet current best practice in the digital economy
- have governance structures that are accountable, transparent, cost-effective, streamlined and efficient

The Commission is therefore asked to identify the opportunities and obstacles that will help or hinder progress towards this vision and make recommendations for change that will deliver us to our destination. In particular the Commission is asked to:

- address the role of public services in improving outcomes, what impact they make, and whether this can be done more effectively
- examine structures, functions and roles, to improve the quality of public service delivery and reduce demand through, for example, early intervention
- consider the role of a public service ethos, along with cultural change, engaging public sector workers, users and stakeholders

The Commission should take a long term view and not be constrained by the current pattern of public service delivery, but should recognise the importance of local communities and the geography and ethos of Scotland as well as the significant direct and indirect contribution the delivery of public services make to Scotland's economy.

It should have clear regard to joint work already underway to take forward the increasing integration of health and social care and to develop sustainable police and fire services for the future. Updates on work in both areas are expected to be available to the Commission in good time for it to take into account in its recommendations.

- **Regeneration strategy. People and places fund**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/regeneration/discussion>

The Scottish Government launched [Achieving a Sustainable Future: The Regeneration Strategy](#) on 12 December. The strategy sets out the Government's vision of a Scotland where our most disadvantaged communities are supported and where all places are sustainable and promote well-being. The strategy also sets out our plans for delivering this vision in partnership with our stakeholders.

The strategy follows on from the Discussion Paper that we published in February and is part of a suite of place based documents that launched in December 2011 including the [Infrastructure Investment Plan](#) and the Cities Strategy. These documents follow on from the Government Economic Strategy and their key messages will focus on the link to sustainable economic growth.

- **National strategic guidance for CLD**

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/communitylearninganddevelopment/about/strategicguidance.asp>

CLD strategic guidance launched

The Scottish Government launched its [new strategic guidance](#) for community learning and development on 11 June 2012.

The guidance was formally launched by Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, on the Engage for Education website where you can see the [Minister's video blog](#). The Cabinet Secretary has also written to the chairs of Community Planning Partnerships, local authority chief executives and others urging them to use the guidance to maximise the benefits that community learning and development (CLD) activities can bring to communities.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/06/2208>

This strategic guidance clarifies our expectation of Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs), within the broad framework of public service reform, and in line with the Review of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements.

It is important to be clear about the purpose of CLD. We see it as empowering people, individually and collectively, to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities, through learning. This guidance outlines the action necessary to maximise CLD's impact, resulting in better alignment of services and optimal use of resources.

- **CPP review (S.O.A.s) Implementation Plan**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00397999.pdf>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CP/communityplanningreview>

Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) - Delivering on the Statement of Ambition

Public services in Scotland face unprecedented challenges to improve outcomes for the people of Scotland. The Christie Commission on the future delivery of public services was tasked with looking for

solutions and produced its report in June 2011. As part of the Government's response to Christie it agreed to undertake a review of Community Planning. In March 2012, following that review, the Scottish Government and COSLA published a shared Statement of Ambition. This put Community Planning at the heart of an outcome based approach to public services in Scotland and made clear that effective community planning arrangements will be at the core of public service reform. Work to produce detailed proposals for change based on the Statement of Ambition is now underway and a letter setting out next steps was circulated to Community Planning Partners on 10 May.

The review recognised that coordination and collaboration at the national level has an important role in bringing partners together to deliver the Statement of Ambition locally. A National Group has therefore been established to play a pivotal role in implementing and communicating the overarching vision for community planning and Single Outcome Agreements, identifying and addressing issues that have a national dimension and building the skills and capacity of partnerships. The Group is chaired by Pat Watters, immediate past President of COSLA and co-chair of the Review. Its membership is drawn from strategic leaders in public services and the wider community. It had its first meeting on 14 August 2012 and its terms of reference were agreed at that meeting. Papers for the meeting can be accessed here:

- [Papers for the 14 August meeting](#)
- [Note of the 14 August meeting](#)
- [Papers for the 23 October meeting](#)

A Project Board of senior officials, led by Scottish Government and COSLA and including members from the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), Audit Scotland, the Improvement Service, the NHS and the Third Sector has also been set up to oversee implementation of the proposals arising from the review. The Project Board's remit is set out in its Terms of Reference.

Further information on the work of the National Group and other work to deliver on the Statement of Ambition is being provided through an Implementation Newsletter.

- [Implementation Newsletter Issue 1 - July 2012](#)
- **Health and Social Care integration**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/programme-for-government/2012-13/Adult-Health-Bill>

Integration of Adult Health & Social Care Integration Bill - Programme for Government 2012-13

The integration of adult health and social care represents the radical reform that is needed to improve care, particularly for older people, and to make better use of the substantial resources that we commit to adult health and social care.

The Integration of Adult Health and Social Care Bill will bring forward legislation to create Health and Social Care Partnerships, which will replace Community Health Partnerships and will be the joint and equal responsibility of Health Boards and Local Authorities.

The Bill will put in place:

- nationally agreed outcomes, which will apply across adult health and social care, and for which Health Boards and Local Authorities will be held jointly accountable
- a requirement on Health Boards and Local Authorities to integrate adult health and social care budgets
- a requirement on Partnerships to strengthen the role of clinicians and care professionals, along with the third and independent sectors, in the planning and delivery of services.

The Bill aims to ensure that adult health and social care budgets are used effectively to achieve quality and consistency, and to realise a shift in the balance of care from institutional to community based settings.

Partnerships will be jointly accountable to Ministers, Local Authorities, Health Board Chairs and the public for delivering the nationally agreed outcomes.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00392579.pdf>

- **Reshaping of care (Change Fund)**

http://www.gcv.org.uk/news_and_information/news/1399_change_fund-reshaping_elderly_care

<http://www.jitscotland.org.uk/action-areas/reshaping-care-for-older-people/change-fund-plans/south-ayrshire/>

- **Welfare reform**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/welfare-reform>

The UK Welfare Reform Act 2012 will introduce significant changes to the welfare system. Although welfare is a reserved matter for UK Government, some measures impact on devolved services delivered by the Scottish Government and local authorities such as Health, Social Care and Housing.

The Scottish Government is working with our stakeholders, partners and the UK Government to understand the impact and consequences of the reform for people and services in Scotland.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform/legislation-and-key-documents/welfare-reform-act-2012/>

Welfare Reform Act 2012

On 8 March 2012 the Welfare Reform Act received Royal Assent. The Act legislates for the biggest change to the welfare system for over 60 years.

It introduces a wide range of reforms that will deliver the commitment made in the Coalition Agreement and the Queen's Speech to make the benefits and tax credits systems fairer and simpler by:

- creating the right incentives to get more people into work
- protecting the most vulnerable in our society
- delivering fairness to those claiming benefit and to the taxpayer.

The main elements of the Act

The main elements of the Act are:

- the introduction of Universal Credit to provide a single streamlined payment that will improve work incentives
- a stronger approach to reducing fraud and error with tougher penalties for the most serious offences
- a new claimant commitment showing clearly what is expected of claimants while giving protection to those with the greatest needs
- reforms to Disability Living Allowance, through the introduction of the Personal Independence Payment to meet the needs of disabled people today
- creating a fairer approach to Housing Benefit to bring stability to the market and improve incentives to work
- driving out abuse of the Social Fund system by giving greater power to local authorities
- reforming Employment and Support Allowance to make the benefit fairer and to ensure that help goes to those with the greatest need
- changes to support a new system of child support which puts the interest of the child first.
- [Welfare Reform Act 2012 and supporting products](#) (UK Parliament website)

Welfare reform regulations and policy briefing notes

We will publish regulations relating to the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and associated policy briefing notes as they become available.

- [Welfare reform regulations and policy briefing notes](#)
- **National standards for Community Engagement**

<http://www.scdc.org.uk/what/national-standards/>

[The National Standards for Community Engagement](#) set out best practice guidance for engagement between communities and public agencies. The standards were:

- commissioned by the Minister for Communities, through Communities Scotland
- developed by SCDC from the experience of communities and agencies with extensive participation of over 500 community and agency representatives
- published in 2005 with endorsement by the Scottish Executive, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, NHS Health Scotland, the Association of Chief Police Officers and many others

SCDC was the delivery organisation for the National Standards for Community Engagement Support Programme 2005/2007.

At the current time we can offer additional training to partnerships, community organisations or individual agencies and providers to allow them to develop an understanding of how to implement good practice in engaging with communities at a local level, and how to evaluate and measure the impact of engagement. (see our [Training and Consultancy Services](#))

[Download the National Standards for Community Engagement](#)

- **Research on developing national CCB standards**

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/communitylearninganddevelopment/communitycapacitybuilding/aboutccb/developingstandards.asp>

Developing national standards

Building on the strengths of communities

Building the skills, organisation, involvement and influence of community groups is an essential contribution to National Outcomes. Community capacity building (CCB) continues to be a key priority for community learning and development (CLD). However, the current understanding of CCB, and its contribution to policy and practice, needs to be improved.

Education Scotland and its partners want to strengthen the focus on CCB in the light of the new [strategic guidance](#) and future legislation for community empowerment and community planning. The strategic approach to CLD, outlined in the guidance, will improve awareness of the principles and practice involved in strengthening communities and how best to create a more supportive environment for this.

Scoping exercise

As a means to improving clarity about the principles involved, it has been suggested that it may be desirable to build upon the existing experience of the National Standards for Community Engagement (NSCE). These are seen as successful in achieving common understandings, improving practice and involving a wide range of stakeholders.

Education Scotland commissioned the Scottish Community Development Centre to explore whether there is scope for the development of national standards for community capacity building - and, if so, what form these might take.

The results of the research phase indicate that there is an appetite for a more strategic approach to CCB, which will deliver consistent, equitable and sustainable opportunities for communities across Scotland.

[PDF file: National Standards for Community Capacity Building: Scoping Exercise \(766 KB\)](#)