

# Healthcare Improvement Scotland

# Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland

The new scrutiny and improvement bodies for social care, social work, children's services and healthcare services

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## Welcome

**To a new style bulletin for a new year.**

This is our seventh information bulletin about the creation of the new improvement and scrutiny bodies for social care, social work, children's services and healthcare services. We publish the bulletin every six weeks and circulate it widely to those with an interest in health and care. The latest version and previous bulletins are available on our [website](#), which has also been updated.

## Public Services Reform (Scotland) Bill

The PSR Bill, which contains the provisions to establish the two new improvement and scrutiny bodies, HIS and SCSWIS, passed stage 1 of the Parliamentary process on 7 January 2010. You can find details of the debate on the Scottish Parliament [website](#).

Stage 2, the line by line scrutiny of the Bill and any proposed amendments to it, commenced on 26 January and is expected to conclude on 9 March, with the Stage 3 debate at the end of March. Royal assent is expected in late April/ early May 2010.

## The Purpose of the New Bodies

**What they will do and how they operate is explained in this short statement from the Programme Board.**

SCSWIS and HIS will be new public bodies charged with improving the quality of social care, social work, children's services and healthcare services. They will also be charged with providing more streamlined and better co-ordinated scrutiny of service quality. They will do this by:

- regulating and inspecting
- assessing risk
- providing guidance and advice
- influencing policy and standards
- supporting improvement, and
- reporting publicly.

The new bodies will integrate their activities and focus on service users to provide a comprehensive picture of how the needs of people using services are met - from service strategy and design, the assessment of need through to the quality of services provided to individuals. The new bodies will analyse evidence and other information from inspections, registration, complaints, investigations and other professional intelligence. From this analysis they will report on the quality of services, how risks can be minimised, problems addressed and continuous improvement achieved.

They will collaborate with others to understand and report how services could be improved to achieve better outcomes for individuals. They will collaborate to look across services, such as social work, social care, acute, primary and community healthcare, housing, education, mental welfare, justice and child protection, wherever services are delivered together to meet individuals' needs. On the basis of performance evidence the new bodies and other bodies responsible for scrutiny will move away from cyclical scrutiny programmes towards shared and risk-based programmes. These bodies will collaborate on strategic and thematic scrutiny using common reporting practices and language.

The integrated and collaborative approach will help validate providers' self-evaluation of their services. It will also minimise duplication and overlap and allow less expenditure on scrutiny and more on improving services.

The creation of SCSWIS and HIS will build on the good work of their predecessor bodies. Creation of the new bodies, over time, will allow people who use services, their carers and the wider public to see and experience further significant improvement in the quality of their services.

## Mental Welfare Commission Scotland

Following the consultation the Government will bring forward amendments to the PSR Bill at Stage 2 to focus the functions of the Mental Welfare Commission and update its governance structure. The Commission will remain an independent body with functions which are primarily about the protection of the rights of individuals with mental disorder or learning disability.

The Commission will have a new duty to raise matters of concern with HIS and SCSWIS, and similarly, HIS and SCSWIS will have a duty to consult with the Commission in areas of their work relating to mental health services.

Updating the Commission's current governance structure will ensure that service users and others with expertise and knowledge of mental health services are more formally involved with the work of the Commission.

### Comments or Questions:

If you have any comments or questions on the project, please contact the team

- By e-mail –  
NSB2011@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

### Useful links

- **Scottish Parliament**  
[www.scottish.parliament.co.uk](http://www.scottish.parliament.co.uk)
- **Scrutiny Bodies website**  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/health/scrutiny](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/health/scrutiny)

## Next Stages

We expect the Public Service Reform (Scotland) Bill to become law around April 2010 but the new bodies won't come into being until April 2011. In the period between we will be appointing the Chairs, Chief Executives and Board members. SCSWIS board will have 9-12 member and HIS board 10-13 members.

We expect to advertise both HIS and SCSWIS Chair positions in early April with appointments being made by end of July 2010. Board Members will be recruited in late 2010. The first Chief Executives will be appointed by Scottish Ministers and Chairs will be involved in the recruitments. Preparatory work has begun with a view to filling both positions by end August 2010.

The new Chairs, Chief Executives, board members and senior managers will make up shadow teams. It will be for these "shadow teams" to finalise these preparations as well as make and implement key decisions.

## Currently ...

Senior managers from the existing bodies are working with the project team to identify and address key business continuity and transition tasks. A new Project Plan is being devised to incorporate and prioritise these tasks. Preparations at this stage are intended to assist the shadow teams when they are established. As such, any plans or preparations over the next few months can only be tentative until they are adopted and endorsed by the shadow teams.

Tentative business models have now been identified and will guide thinking on resources, inspection plans, methodologies, structures and operational arrangements over the next few months. Further information about business models can be found at our website.

## Stakeholder Events

The project team participated in the Out of School Carers' Network Members on 26 January and will be attending events with NHS Education for Scotland and the Scottish Partnership Forum in February. All forthcoming events are flagged in the News Update section of our **website**.

**The next public information bulletin will be issued in March 2010.**