

Response ID ANON-G48G-9PFF-F

Submitted to National Care Service (Scotland) Bill (Stage 2) - Your views on draft amendments

Submitted on 2024-09-19 13:52:32

About you

1 Please read the privacy notice below and tick the box below to show that you understand how the data you provide will be used as set out in the policy.

I have read and understood how the personal data I provide will be used.

2 How your response will be published

I would like my response to be published in its entirety

3 What is your name?

Name:

Fiona McIntyre

4 What is your email address?

Email:

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5 Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

Organisation details

1 Name of organisation

Name of organisation:

Royal Pharmaceutical Society Scotland

2 Information about your organisation

Please add information about your organisation in the box below:

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is the professional body for pharmacy and promotes pharmacy at the forefront of healthcare.

Since the Society was founded in 1841 we have championed the profession, and are internationally renowned as publishers of medicines information.

Our Royal Charter gives us a unique status in pharmacy.

We promote pharmacy in the media and government, lead the way in medicines information, and support pharmacists in their education and development.

Supplementary Information

National Care Service strategy

1 What is your view of the proposed National Care Service strategy (see proposed new sections 1A to 1E)?

Strongly support

Please use the text box below to expand on your answer :

National Care Service Board

2 What is your view of the proposal to create a National Care Service Board, and the provisions about the role and functions of the Board (see in particular new Chapter 1B of Part 1, and new schedule 2C)?

Strongly support

Please use the text box below to expand on your answer :

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) supports the creation of the National Care Service in Scotland. The shared accountability agreement is a positive move and will support improvements in integration.

Creation of local boards and removal of other integration models

3 What is your view of the proposal to establish National Care Service local boards and to remove other integration models (see in particular Chapter 1A of Part 1, and new schedules 2A and 2B)?

Strongly support

Please use the text box below to expand on your answer :

The amendments to the Bill support the principles of increasing integration, minimising variation and driving improvement in health and care. Delivering this by building on existing structures rather than creating new public bodies is a positive change.

Monitoring and improvement and commissioning

4 What is your view of the proposed new provisions on monitoring and improvement (see new sections 12K and 12L) and on commissioning (see new section 12M)?

Tend to support

Please use the text box below to expand on your answer :

Care must be taken not to duplicate the work of other public bodies such as the Care Inspectorate or Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Clarity on how the monitoring and improvement function of the National Care Service Board will collaborate and cooperate with these other public bodies within the scope of monitoring and improvement will be important.

Tend to support

Please use the text box below to expand on your answer :

National Chief Social Work Adviser and the National Social Work Agency

5 What is your view of the proposed new provisions to designate a National Chief Social Work Adviser and for the creation of a National Social Work Agency (see new section 26A)?

Undecided / no opinion

Please use the text box below to expand on your answer :

Amendments to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014

6 What is your view of the proposed amendments to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, as set out in the marked up version of the Act?

Tend to support

Please use the text box below to expand on your answer :

Areas of further work

7 What is your view of the Scottish Government's proposed approach to addressing the areas of further work outlined in the Minister's covering letter?

Undecided / no opinion

Undecided / no opinion

Undecided / no opinion

Undecided / no opinion

Please use the text box below to expand on your answer referring to the specific areas of further work that you are commenting on:

Draft National Care Service Charter

8 What is your view of the initial draft of the National Care Service Charter?

Tend to support

Please use the text box below to expand on your answer :

The Charter describes the scope of the NCS as a “wide range of practical and personal support” and is quite vague in terms of the language used within the Charter. Our understanding is that the scope of the NCS is social care, social work and community health and this should be described within the Charter. For some citizens, community health and social care will include support to manage their medicines and other health treatments. In the Involvement, Participation and Choice section we suggest consideration to reflecting some of the principles of Realistic Medicine. For example, adopting some of the language when describing person-centred goals including the caring support necessary to support treatments related to health. This may include carer support for citizens to take their medicines safely and effectively. Citizens should expect that a single, consistent standard of support for the safe use and administration of medicines by carers exists in the NCS and the access to this support should be equitable across Scotland.

Other comments

9 Do you have any other comments on the Scottish Government’s proposed draft Stage 2 amendments to the National Care Service Bill?

Please use this text box to provide your answer:

RPS Scotland supports the creation of a National Care Service in Scotland and agrees with the amendments made at this stage of the Bill. We want to see equity of access to high quality pharmaceutical care for every person in Scotland and it is essential that pharmacists have leadership roles in the National Care Service Board. We would see a pharmacist as part of the representation of clinicians which will form part of the Board membership.

We are pleased to see that the draft amendments mean that there will be no change to contractual arrangements for primary care services including community pharmacy.

We advocate for pharmacists to be able to read and write to the integrated health and social care record and are pleased to see that the provisions around information sharing and information standards will be applicable to both the NHS and NCS and those organisations commissioned to provide services on their behalf.

We support the policy proposals to improve workforce planning for the social work and social care workforce. Part of that workforce planning will include scoping of knowledge and skills and the RPS are particularly keen to see a nationally agreed standard to ensure safe systems for supply, storage and administration of medicines in care services by the social care workforce.