

Up-date on the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Bill

Introduction

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament on May 28, 2013. This is the Bill which will integrate health and social care services in Scotland.

The Bill is particularly technical and important parts of the content need clarification to ascertain the intention behind them. ADSW will be engaging with Scottish Government to obtain this. In the meantime, we have produced this up-date which sets out some background information such as the principles of the Bill and key terms; descriptions on the key sections of the Bill; and points to further reading and resources.

The purpose of this up-date is to highlight, in a simple and highly summarised form, the key elements of the Bill. It will be available on the ADSW website where it will be added to and developed as the Bill goes through the parliamentary process and as clarification on the interpretations of parts of the Bill are given.

In parallel with this briefing, ADSW Partners for Change has produced 'a guide to resources on integration and partnership working' which reviews existing literature and lists a range of tools, checklists and guidance which may be useful in planning for integration and preparing the Integration Plan. This is available on the ADSW website <http://www.adsw.org.uk/ADSW/Our-Work/>

The Bill and its supporting documents: explanatory notes (including the financial memorandum), policy memorandum and the delegated powers memorandum are available on the Scottish Parliament website here: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/63845.aspx>

Principles of integration

The Bill is based on the following principles of integration:

1. is integrated from the point of view of recipients
2. takes account of the particular needs of different recipients
3. takes account of the particular needs of recipients in different parts of the area in which the service is being provided
4. is planned and led locally in a way which is engaged with the community and local professionals
5. best anticipates needs and prevents them arising
6. makes the best use of the available facilities, people and other resources

Timescales and processes

- Parliamentary process and timescales

The Bill is now the property of the Scottish Parliament and the timescale is entirely at their discretion. No timetable has been agreed to, but the Scottish Government expect Stage 1 to happen early after the end of the summer recess and stage 2 to begin around November.

- Development of regulation and guidance and timescales

As yet there is no timetable for drafting the regulations and guidance which will accompany the Act.

Definition of terms used in the Bill

The Bill introduces terms which were not those used in the consultation process. These are defined below: