

## **Scotland Excel**

**To: Executive Sub-Committee**

**On: 18 November 2022**

**Report by:  
Chief Executive of Scotland Excel**

### **Care Services Update**

#### **1. Introduction**

This purpose of this report is to provide an update on key developments undertaken by Scotland Excel's Social Care Team.

#### **2. Adult and Older Peoples Care**

##### **2.1 National Care Home Contract (NCHC)**

The redesign process for the NCHC is now underway. This collaborative process involves the Scottish Government, Local Government, COSLA, Provider Representatives, Trade Unions, Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Carers Groups, Independent Advocacy, Care Home Providers and Care Workers.

The NCHC annual negotiations were also due to begin, however this was delayed due to the current pressures and an agreement to focus on what financial solutions could be offered at this time. The negotiations have now resumed for the placement costs for 2023/24

Scotland Excel is conducting discussions with the Scottish Government in relation to the current cost pressures that care homes are experiencing and, to offer advice on the contract in relation to additional practice and legislations such as vitamin D supplements for residents and the implementation of Anne's Law\*.

There are areas of the redesign work that can continue, in order to agree a contract in principle that the current signatories of the NCHC can review towards the end of the negotiations period.

All new guidance and proposed legislation are being included to ensure that the contract continues to meet the changing demands of this sector.

The main themes of the redesign have been to ensure that residents focus remains at the centre of the contract, with a model built around sustainability and workforce development and inclusion of the possibility to explore whether the regulatory boundaries of the sector can adapt sufficiently.

Scotland Excel has been invited to discuss the NCHC at a Scottish Government led four-nations meeting

*\*<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-health-and-social-care-standards-for-care-homes/>*

## **2.2 Care Homes for Adults with Learning Disabilities Including Autism**

This framework is due to expire on 16th September 2023 and the development of the new framework has begun. A survey has been issued to all local authorities to establish further improvements and best practice. A User Intelligence Group (UIG) meeting, scheduled to take place on 18th November 2022, will help inform the strategy and advise any operational requirements going forward. There are currently 25 local authorities utilising the framework with an annual spend of approximately £21M.

## **2.3 Residential Rehabilitation**

This project was commissioned by the Scottish Government with the remit of researching and developing national approaches for commissioning of alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation. The initial market research and analysis phase has concluded and options for national commissioning, and the implementation phase of the project, are being discussed with the Scottish Government.

The market research phase included questionnaires to existing and potential service providers and to Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs), and investigating models in other parts of the UK. Indicative spend on residential rehabilitation placements during 2021/22 is approximately £3M based on quarterly reports by ADPs to Public Health Scotland. The spend for 2022/23 is anticipated to increase as part of grant funding provided to ADPs for residential rehabilitation by the Scottish Government.

## **2.4 Care and Support**

The framework has 138 providers and 439 services following the last reopening in April 2022. To date 12 of the 23 participating Councils are utilising the framework and there is ongoing work with a further three councils intending to purchase from the framework. A re-opening consultation exercise is currently under consideration in response to a further request by three Councils seeking inclusion. A Prior Information Notice has been issued to the market to establish the level of interest.

## **2.5 Social Care Agency Workers**

The 3rd generation framework is due to commence. The key aim of the flexible framework is to increase the geographical coverage for purchasers, and to reduce the reliance on off-framework suppliers to meet the requirements as well as providing consistency for purchasers in regard to standard terms and conditions and the fees paid.

## **3. Children's Services**

### **3.1 Children's Residential Care & Education**

Scotland Excel proceeded to award the Children's Residential and Education, including Short Breaks, Services flexible framework in September and the framework went live on 1<sup>st</sup> October. The framework had 39 providers and 280 services recommended for award and allows for new entrants during its lifetime; interest has already been expressed by several providers that are keen to join the framework once it reopens.

The renewal framework reflects the feedback received from providers and councils to create a streamlined process that reduces the administrative burden on providers whilst increasing the information sharing and transparency around services and fees. The renewal framework also

features continuing care services, which reflects the policy direction of supporting children and young people in placements over a longer time period, where it is appropriate to do so.

Scotland Excel will continue to mobilise the framework over the coming months, ensuring that providers and councils have access to all relevant framework information. This includes an interactive Service Directory for councils that features increased functionality including linking the service information to real-time Care Inspectorate grades. This aims to support commissioners with their decision making and provide detailed information in a user-friendly format.

### **3.2 £500 Special Recognition Payment Project**

Commissioned by the Northern Ireland Department of Health, a Special Recognition Payment (SRP) for eligible staff is being administered by Scotland Excel. Two portals set up to receive submissions closed on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Whilst applicants are approx. 20% of the estimated number, this would be in line with the experience of administering the Scotland £500 payment. It is estimated that support for applicants will continue until early December 2022.

## **4. National Care Service (NCS) Bill Consultation**

Following publication of the National Care Service Bill for the delivery of social care, social work and community health in Scotland on 20 June 2022, a call for views was initiated under Stage 1 of the parliamentary process for consideration by the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, supported by other committees.

Scotland Excel submitted a response to this consultation on 31 August 2022 ([scotland-excel-ncs-consultation-response.pdf](#)). The response confirms Scotland Excel's support for the overarching aspirations of the Bill and its commitment to continuing to work in partnership to support improvement, and highlights concerns that the context of the current commissioning landscape and the contribution of good commissioning and improvement activity have not been fully recognised.

Scotland Excel attended the first NCS Forum on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, will participate in the Stakeholder Register where appropriate and has been invited to participate in the Adult Social Care Working Group on Ethical Commissioning on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Early conversations have taken place with Scottish Government to consider unique and specialist workstreams which Scotland Excel are best placed to review. The scope of any work is not fully defined.

An invitation to attend the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Meeting: 29 November 2022 has been accepted and planning is underway to prepare for questioning by the committee.

## **5. Recommendation**

Members are invited to note the progress made to date.