

To: FORUM FOR EMPOWER COMMUNITIES GROUP

On: 11 MARCH 2021

Report by: S MCLELLAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, RAMH

TITLE: INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE IN SCOTLAND

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Review was Chaired by Derek Feeley, former Chief Executive of NHS Scotland. It was commissioned by Scottish Ministers in September 2020, with the Core remit being:

“recommend improvements to adult social care in Scotland”.
- 1.2 A copy of the Independent Review, together with an accompanying short film, was published on 3 February 2021 on the Scottish Government’s website at <https://www.gov.scot/groups/independent-review-of-adult-social-care/>.
- 1.3 An early theme of the report was recognition that Adult Social Care in Scotland is one of “unrealised potential”.
- 1.4 The report and associated recommendations, describes a vision which is evidenced by a Human rights based approach, recognising the core role which people with a lived experience can bring to further evolution of services. It highlights repeatedly the importance of collaborative partnerships with people who have a right to receive care, in association with providers.
- 1.5 Reference is made to Self Directed Support and how this has not fully realised the planned potential.
- 1.6 The report recommends the establishment of a “National Care Service’, with equal status to that given to NHS Scotland.
- 1.7 The report breaks down what it sees as key functions to achieve lasting change across the sector.

1.8 There are 3 fundamental areas of consideration:

1. Shift the paradigm:
2. Strengthen foundations
3. Redesign the system

(Move from a reactive system that focuses on crisis, to one where human rights are primary and access to support is):

- Preventative and anticipatory
- An investment
- Enables rights and capabilities
- Collaborative
- Relationship based
- A vehicle for supporting independent living
- Consistent and Fair

1.9 The report notes that “The current system does not feel like a system: It feels like a guddle”

1.10 In tandem with the focus given to the rights of recipients to receive a service which most adequately reflects their needs, the report references the process for budgets / purchase of services which is currently too rigid and unresponsive. (Commissioning and Procurement). Particular reference is made to challenges “transporting care services across geographical boundaries”, hence the focus on a National service, which oversees care delivery.

1.11 Such significant changes are recognised as having a knock on effect to the current functions of Integrated Joint Boards, as well as the current role of the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Social Services Council. The report also recommends changes as necessary to the scope and numbers of IJB’s, whilst recognising the relevance of evolution in their function. The report goes on to recommend wider community participation in governance of IJB’s and associated bodies.

1.12 Monitoring, and quality standards is addressed within the report overall, which reflects that the system of oversight “feels more like Policing”. Proposals being considered focus on Co-production, Peer involvement and general partnerships with communities, individuals and providers across the 3rd sector.

1.13 Commissioning for services is acknowledged as being too focused on “time and task” and again is seen as lacking in person centred focus. Future developments should fall within “Commissioning for Public Good”

1.14 Staff issues are addressed in the chapter entitled “Fair Work”. The report notes the current employment baseline numbers as 148,000 people directly employed in Adult social care in Scotland, 83% of whom are female. Recommendations include:

- Rapid delivery of the Fair Work convention recommendations
- National Job evaluation
- Career progression pathways
- Minimum terms and conditions
- National Training and professional oversight

2. **Recommendation**

- a) That it be agreed that Forum Members work with colleagues in statutory services to contribute local initiatives to reflect the substance of the final recommendations; and
- b) That the report be noted.