

### Introduction

In June 2022 the Scottish Government introduced the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) to the Scottish Parliament, which aims to make Scottish Ministers accountable for social care, as they are currently for health care, within Scotland.

In this document we have answered a number of questions regarding the Scottish Government's proposals for a new National Care Service. The document is divided into eight sections, and you can go directly to one by selecting its hyperlink below. You can also go directly to a specific question by selecting its hyperlink.

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## National Care Service

### What is the National Care Service?

The Scottish Government's ambition is for a National Care Service that ensures people of all ages can access the support that they need to live a full life by improving consistency and quality of provision.

Through the creation of a National Care Service, the Scottish Government aims to:

- transform people's experience of social care support and related services, strengthen prevention and community-based support and reform access
- continue integrating community health and social care and strengthen partnerships working with other services and agencies
- ensure that individuals can participate in their care design
- ensure people's needs are met holistically and driven by the outcomes that are important to them and their communities
- strengthen prevention, early intervention and end of life care.

It is envisaged that the National Care Service will be a directorate of the Scottish Government and will be staffed by civil servants. This new directorate will provide leadership, oversight and accountability for social care, with the work of planning services delegated to Care Boards, which will be separate public bodies accountable to the Scottish Ministers.

#### Why is a National Care Service being proposed?

In 2020 the Scottish Government commissioned the [Independent Review of Adult Social Care](#), and a report with recommendations was published in February 2021 (also referred to as 'The Feeley Review'). One of the recommendations was the setting up of a National Care Service, which the current Scottish Government pledged to do in their manifesto.

A national consultation on proposals arising from the initial Review was subsequently commenced by the Scottish Government in August 2021. Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership, the Integration Joint Board and Glasgow City Council separately participated in the consultation.

Following the recommendations and the national consultation, the Scottish Government introduced the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) to Parliament on 20 June 2022.

#### What is the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill?

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) was introduced by the Scottish Government to the Scottish Parliament in June 2022 with the intention of reforming how social care and social work services are delivered. This includes making Scottish Ministers accountable for social care, as they are currently for health care, within Scotland.

The Bill sets out the principles of and establishes a new National Care Service for Scotland, and it will allow Scottish Ministers to transfer a range of services and functions from Local Authorities to the National Care Service subject to Parliamentary approval. As well as establishing the National Care Service, the Bill also proposes allowing information to be shared by the National Care Service and the National Health Service and introducing rights to breaks for unpaid carers and visiting rights for residents living in adult care homes (known as 'Anne's Law').

The Scottish Parliament must analyse, consider, debate and finally vote on the Bill before it can become an Act or a law. This is done through various committees that will hear from experts, organisations and members of the public about what the Bill would do. The committees involved in the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill are listed below:

- [Health, Social Care and Sport Committee](#)
- [Finance and Public Administration Committee](#)
- [Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee](#)
- [Criminal Justice Committee](#)
- [Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee](#)
- [Education, Children and Young People Committee](#)

- [Social Justice and Social Security Committee.](#)

The National Care Service (Scotland) Bill is referred to as framework legislation because it proposes general principles of the National Care Service but leaves considerable detail to be laid out in future secondary legislation. The Scottish Government's intention is to 'co-design' these details alongside people who use and work in social care. Developing the detail of the National Care Service will take some time as it did when introducing legislation for Health and Social Care Integration.

[Contents of the Bill along with related information](#) is available on the Scottish Parliament website.

### What are the key proposals of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill?

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) proposes to reorganise how social care and social work services are funded and delivered in Scotland. It establishes a National Care Service, accountable to Scottish Ministers, with services designed and delivered locally.

Some of the key proposals include:

- **New Local Care Boards:** New Care Boards that are directly accountable to and funded by Scottish Ministers will replace existing Integration Joint Boards. Care Boards will plan, commission and potentially deliver National Care Service services within their local area. The number of Care Boards and the geographical areas that they will cover have yet to be decided but the Bill requires that together they cover the whole of Scotland. The Bill allows Scottish Ministers to make decisions about the membership of Care Boards and what groups they are required to represent
- **Health and Social Care Services:** The Bill proposes to give Scottish Ministers powers to transfer a broad range of social care functions, including adult social care and social work services, from Local Authorities and Health Boards to the National Care Service subject to Parliamentary approval. The potential transfer of children's services and justice social work services require a further public consultation and the results to be laid before parliament alongside any regulations. Social care services related to homelessness have not been included in the scope of services within the National Care Service. Ministers will also be able to transfer healthcare functions from Scotland's National Health Service to the National Care Service.
- **Health and Social Care Workforce:** In connection with the transfer of social care services, it is proposed that Scottish Ministers can also transfer the staff who carry out those functions from the employment of a Local Authority to the National Care Service. However, the Bill does not allow for the transfer of staff who are employed by a Health Board. The exact details of which staff and the arrangements of any transfer have yet to be decided on

- **National Social Work Agency:** A new National Social Work Agency will be established within the Scottish Government to provide national leadership, oversight, support and investment in the social work profession. The creation of the Agency is not specifically mentioned within the Bill but it is referred to within the Policy Memorandum that supports the Bill
- **Commissioning and Procurement:** Newly created Care Boards will be responsible for commissioning and procurement of goods and services as part of the National Care Service. Social care services that are currently provided directly by Local Authorities may be subject to a commissioning arrangement with the Care Board or the Care Board may take over direct delivery of the service, with staff transferring to the Care Board. The Bill also allows for the procurement of certain social care contracts to be restricted to voluntary organisations, meaning that only voluntary organisations would be permitted to bid for these contracts.

As well as establishing the National Care Service, the Bill also proposes:

- establishing a scheme for sharing information, to facilitate a nationally consistent electronic health and care record and
- introducing rights to breaks for unpaid carers and visiting rights for residents living in adult care homes (known as 'Anne's Law').

### What services would be included in the National Care Service?

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) proposes to give Scottish Ministers powers to transfer a broad range of social care functions, including adult social care and social work services. The exact detail of which services would be transferred to the National Care Service have yet to be decided on. The Scottish Government has committed to developing this detail through a co-design process alongside people who use and work in social care, including Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards, Health Boards and Local Authorities among others.

Ministers will also be able to transfer community healthcare functions from Scotland's National Health Service to the National Care Service. The Scottish Government has not yet defined what would be included in community health services. However, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care said in their recent evidence that it is "those services which are based in the community and provide the first point of contact, diagnosis and treatment".

The Bill requires a further public consultation on the potential transfer of children's services and justice social work services, and the results to be laid before parliament alongside any regulations. Social care services related to homelessness have not been included in the scope of services within the National Care Service.

### What are the timescales for implementation of a National Care Service?

There are three stages to a Bill going through the Scottish Parliament. The National Care Service (Scotland) Bill is currently at Stage 1, with seven committees taking evidence on the Bill. Stage 1 is planned to conclude in early 2024. The Scottish Government has committed to delivering the National Care Service legislation by the end of the parliamentary term in 2026. There are no current timescales available for when a fully functioning NCS will be implemented.

### What is a Care Board and what will it do?

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) proposes that new Care Boards that are directly accountable to and funded by Scottish Ministers will replace existing Integration Joint Boards. Care Boards will plan, commission and potentially deliver services on behalf of the National Care Service within their local area.

The number of Care Boards and the geographical areas that they will cover have yet to be decided but the Bill requires that together they cover the whole of Scotland.

The [Bill](#) also allows Scottish Ministers to establish 'Special Care Boards' that could provide certain services at a national level for all of Scotland.

### Who will be a member of Care Boards?

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) stipulates that each Care Board must consist of a Chairing Member, a Chief Executive and 'ordinary members', all of whom will be appointed by Scottish Ministers. However, the Bill does not provide any details regarding the number of 'ordinary members' or the groups they are required to represent.

The Scottish Government proposes to establish the detail relating to Care Boards in future secondary legislation following further consultation and co-design activity with key stakeholders.

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## Legislation and Engagement

### What is framework legislation?

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) is referred to as framework legislation because it proposes general principles of the National Care Service but leaves considerable detail to be laid out in future secondary legislation.

Secondary legislation lets the Scottish Government make changes to laws. It can be used to give more information about how a law will operate, say when parts of the new Act should become law (when a bill is passed, it does not always become law straight away) or keep existing laws up to date.

Whilst the process of passing secondary legislation, for example to build further detail into framework legislation, allows for improvements and changes to be made more quickly than with primary legislation, it involves less opportunity for scrutiny from stakeholders and Members of Parliament. The Scottish Government has committed to consulting with stakeholders prior to seeking approval for any secondary legislation connected to the NCS Bill (for example, the composition of Care Boards).

The Scottish Government’s intention is to co-design the details of the National Care Service alongside people who use and work in social care, including Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards, Health Boards and Local Authorities among others.

**What is the process for the Bill to become law?**

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) was introduced to the Scottish Parliament in June 2022. The Bill must be analysed, considered, debated and voted on by Parliament before it can become an Act or a law.

The stages of how a Bill becomes an Act (or law) are noted in the table below.

| <b>Stage</b>                 | <b>Description</b>  |
|------------------------------|---|
| Introduced                   | The Scottish Government presents the Bill to the Scottish Parliament, along with supporting documentation such as a Financial Memorandum, Explanatory Notes and a Policy Memorandum.  |
| Stage 1 (general principles) | The Bill is given to a lead committee, in the case of the National Care Service the lead committee is the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee. Other committees can also review the Bill and report to the lead committee. The lead committee is responsible for examining the Bill. It hears from experts, organisations and members of the public about what the Bill would do. It then writes a report about what it has heard and giving its own view of the Bill. This Stage 1 report usually makes a recommendation about whether the Parliament should support the main purpose of the Bill (the ‘general principles’). All of this may take a few months. |



|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | The Parliament then debates the Bill and decides whether it should go onto Stage 2 or be rejected.   |
| Stage 2 (amendments)                        | MSPs can propose changes to the Bill. The amendments are debated and decided on at a meeting of a committee (usually the lead committee). If any amendments are agreed, a new (amended) version of the Bill is published. This version is considered at Stage 3.                           |
| Stage 3 (amendments, debate and final vote) | MSPs can propose further amendments to the Bill, these are then debated and decided on in the Debating Chamber. There is then a debate and vote on whether to pass the Bill. If the Bill is not passed, it falls and cannot become law.  |
| Turning the Bill into an Act                | If the Bill is passed, it is normally sent for Royal Assent after about four weeks. Royal Assent is when the Bill gets formal agreement by the King and becomes an Act of the Scottish Parliament. Some Acts become law straight after Royal Assent, some only become law on a later date. |

The National Care Service (Scotland) Bill is currently at Stage 1 of the process. The Scottish Parliament has agreed that Stage 1 should be completed by 30 June 2023.

#### Are there any other documents I can read about the Bill?

The Scottish Government has published a number of documents, sometimes called memorandums, which support the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#), including:

- **Explanatory Notes** explaining the legal effect of the Bill
- **Policy Memorandum** explaining why the Bill is being proposed
- **Delegated Powers Memorandum** explaining why delegated powers are included in the Bill
- **Financial Memorandum** setting out the expected costs of the Bill
- **Statement of Legislative Competence** confirming that the Scottish Government believes that the changes to the law are changes that the Parliament has the power to make and
- **Scottish Parliament Research on the Bill.**

[All supporting documents](#) are available on the Scottish Parliament website.

#### How will the detail of the National Care Service be developed?

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) was introduced to the Scottish Parliament as framework legislation in June 2022, meaning it provides a broad outline of what the National Care Service will look like but leaves much of the detail to be developed through future secondary legislation.

The Scottish Government has committed to developing the detail of the National Care Service through a co-design process alongside a range of stakeholders, particularly with people who access support, those who deliver it and unpaid carers. This will include Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards, Health Boards and Local Authorities among others.

To begin the work of co-designing the National Care Service, the Scottish Government recently opened applications to join a [Lived Experience Expert Panel](#) and a [Stakeholder Register](#). The initial co-design sessions will explore the following 5 themes:

- information sharing to improve health and social care support, which may include areas such as data sharing
- realising rights and recognising responsibilities, which may include work to develop a National Care Service Charter
- keeping health and social care support local, this may consider Care Boards, geography and board representation
- making sure my voice is heard, this may include areas such as advocacy and complaints
- valuing the workforce, which may include issues such as ethical commissioning.

The Scottish Government intend for the co-design work to continue throughout the course of the parliamentary term to continue to inform the design, delivery and continuous improvement of the National Care Service over the coming years.

The Lived Experience Expert Panel and Stakeholder Register will remain open throughout the process, allowing anyone with an interest in any future themes to join the panels at any time to take part in co-design activities.

#### How is the Scottish Government getting the views of those involved?

Following the [Independent Review of Adult Social Care](#), the Scottish Government carried out a [national consultation](#) on its proposals for the National Care Service. Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership and Integration Joint Board and Glasgow City Council separately participated in the consultation.

In July 2022, the Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee published its [Call for Views](#) (consultation) on the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#), and [Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership](#), [its Integration Joint Board](#) and [the Council](#) submitted responses to it that are available on the Scottish Parliament's website. [Social Work Scotland's response](#) and [all other ones](#) are also available. [A summary report of all responses](#) has been published by the Scottish Parliament as well.

Towards the end of 2022, the Scottish Parliament has held committee sessions on the Bill, hearing from experts, organisations and members of the public about what the Bill would do. Their reports are available to view on the [Scottish Parliament's website](#).

The Scottish Government has committed to developing the National Care Service through a co-design process alongside a range of stakeholders, particularly with people who access support, those who deliver it and unpaid carers. This will include Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards, Health Boards and Local Authorities among others.

To begin the work of co-designing the National Care Service, the Scottish Government opened applications to join a [Lived Experience Expert Panel](#) and a [Stakeholder Register](#).

### **How can patients, service users and carers get involved in the co-design of a National Care Service?**

The Scottish Government has committed to developing the detail of the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) and designing the National Care Service through a co-design process alongside a range of stakeholders, particularly with people who access support, those who deliver it and unpaid carers.

Patients, service users and carers can get involved in the co-design of the National Care Service by registering to join the Scottish Government's [Lived Experience Expert Panel](#).

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### **Service Delivery and Provision**

#### **Will social care services be delivered by Care Boards?**

Under the current proposals social care or health services transferred to the National Care Service could be delivered nationally or locally through Care Boards. At a local level, Care Boards will replace existing Integration Joint Boards to shape and deliver care in line with the vision set by the National Care Service and Scottish Ministers. The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) also allows Scottish Ministers to establish 'Special Care Boards' that could provide certain services at a national level for all of Scotland.

### **Will Care Boards be able to commission goods and services?**

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) proposes that newly created Care Boards will be responsible for commissioning and procurement of goods and services as part of the National Care Service. Social care services that are currently provided directly by Local Authorities may be subject to a commissioning arrangement with the Care Board or the Care Board may take over direct delivery of these services, with staff transferring to the Care Board.

The Bill also allows for the procurement of certain social care contracts to be restricted to voluntary organisations, meaning that only voluntary organisations would be permitted to bid for these contracts.

### **When will a decision be made about whether children's services and justice social work are included in the National Care Service?**

It is expected that the Scottish Government will commence a 12-week consultation on the inclusion of children's services and justice social work services in the National Care Service in late 2023, with a final decision being published in early 2024.

### **Will Local Authorities still be responsible for delivering services?**

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) will allow, but does not necessitate, Scottish Ministers to transfer a range of social care services and functions, including adult social care and social work services, from Local Authorities to the National Care Service subject to Parliamentary approval. The potential transfer of children's services and justice social work services require a further public consultation and services related to homelessness have not been included in the scope of the National Care Service.

The Bill proposes that newly created Care Boards will be responsible for commissioning and procurement of goods and services as part of the National Care Service. Social care services that are currently provided directly by Local Authorities may be subject to a commissioning arrangement with the Care Board or the Care Board may take over direct delivery of these services, with staff transferring to the Care Board.

### **How will implementation of the National Care Service affect local authorities and the other services they provide?**

The implementation of a National Care Service as currently proposed will have implications for all Local Authorities across Scotland, as well as Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards and Health Boards. At this stage any implications are not fully understood because, as a 'framework' piece of legislation, the detail of the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) is not yet drafted or decided on, and it will be developed over the months and years to come.

The Scottish Government has however committed to developing the detail of the Bill in a co-produced way with the range of stakeholders who will be impacted by it or have an interest in it, including Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards, Local Authorities and Health Boards among others. Glasgow City Council, Health and Social Care Partnership and Integration Joint Board intend to fully participate in consultations and co-design opportunities and are committed to providing ongoing communications on developments and progress, and any implications the Bill will have.

### **How will this affect out of hours Social Work Services and other services we deliver across more than one Local Authority?**

The creation of the National Care Service as currently proposed will have an impact on health and social care services. The extent of how it will affect any service, including out of hours social work services, is not yet fully understood because as framework legislation the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) provides a broad overall plan for the NCS and leaves much of the detail to be decided on through future secondary legislation.

The Scottish Government has committed to developing the detail of the Bill alongside a range of stakeholders, including Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards, Local Authorities and Health Boards. Glasgow City Council, Health and Social Care Partnership and Integration Joint Board intend to fully participate in consultation and engagement opportunities with the Scottish Government.

### **What is the integrated health and social care record?**

As well as establishing the National Care Service, the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) also proposed establishing a scheme to enable sharing of care records between the National Care Service and the National Health Service. The sharing of records in this way will be an Integrated Health and Social Care Record.

The Scottish Government intend to build, test and iterate the creation of the integrated health and social care record over the coming years.

#### What does the Bill say about unpaid carers?

As well as establishing the National Care Service (NCS), the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) also proposes introducing rights to breaks for unpaid carers.

The Bill allows for changes to the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 to ensure that carers get the support that they need to take sufficient breaks from providing care, and it places a duty on local authorities to provide that support and ensure that it is not subject to local or national eligibility criteria.

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#### Finance and Resources

##### How much will establishing a National Care Service cost?

The Scottish Government has set out its financial forecast for the National Care Service in the [Financial Memorandum](#) that supports the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#).

The Scottish Government has estimated the costs of the Bill provisions to be:

| Financial Year | Estimated Costs |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 2022-23        | £24-36m         |
| 2023-24        | £63-95m         |
| 2024-25        | £84-126m        |
| 2025-26        | £232-477m       |
| 2026-27        | £241-527m       |

As the Bill provides a broad overview of the National Care Service with much of the detail still to be developed, the costings offer an estimated value range only.

However, in December 2022, the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Public Administration Committee published its [report on the Financial Memorandum](#), which raises concerns in relation to the costings and requests that the Scottish Government provides a revised Financial Memorandum by summer 2023.

### Will the cost of setting up a National Care Service impact on current health and social care spending?

The Scottish Government has set out their financial forecast for the National Care Service in the [Financial Memorandum](#) that supports the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#).

As the Bill provides a broad overview of the National Care Service with much of the detail still to be developed, the costings offer an estimated value range only. This makes it difficult to understand any financial implications establishing the National Care Service may have.

The Scottish Parliament's Finance and Public Administration Committee published its [report on the Financial Memorandum](#), raising concerns in relation to the costings and requesting that the Scottish Government provide a revised Financial Memorandum by summer 2023.

### What will happen to health and social care property and assets?

In connection with the transfer of social care services, the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) would also allow Scottish Ministers to transfer staff, property and liabilities associated with those functions from a Local Authority to the National Care Service.

The details of which properties and liabilities that may be transferred and how the transfer will happen have yet to be established and will be developed through the Scottish Governments co-design process with stakeholders.

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## Staff and Employment

### Will Local Authority staff transfer to the National Care Service?

In connection with the transfer of social care services, the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) gives Scottish Ministers powers to transfer the staff who carry out those functions from the employment of a Local Authority to the National Care Service. However, the Bill does not allow for the transfer of staff who are employed by a Health Board. The Bill and supporting documents outline that decisions regarding the transfer of staff will be taken once the structure and governance of Care Boards and their localities have been decided.

At present no information has been provided on what impact any transfer of employment may have on staff pay, terms and conditions and pensions.

### Will staff have a new employer?

Whilst the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) provides for the transfer of staff who carry out social care functions from the employment of Local Authorities to the National Care Service, it does not provide any details of which staff or if they will be employed by the National Care Service or a local Care Board. Decisions regarding the transfer of staff will be taken once the structure and governance of Care Boards and their localities have been decided.

The Bill also lacks detail on how the transfer may impact staff pay, terms and conditions and pensions.

### Will staff's Terms and Conditions or pension be affected?

Whilst the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) provides for the transfer of staff who carry out social care functions from the employment of Local Authorities to the National Care Service, it does not provide any details of which staff or if they will be employed by the National Care Service or a local Care Board. The Bill also lacks detail on how the transfer may impact staff pay, terms and conditions and pensions.

### What will happen to staff employed by the Council who do not transfer to the National Care Service?

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) as currently proposed provides Scottish Ministers with the powers to transfer social care staff from the employment of a Local Authority to the National Care Service (NCS). However, the details of which staff could be transferred have not yet been decided on.

The implications of the Bill and potential transfer, or not, of staff are not fully understood because as framework legislation the Bill does not provide any detail on which staff or services could or could not be transferred to the National Care Service. The Bill and supporting documents outline that decisions about the transfer of staff will be taken once the structure and governance of Care Boards and their localities have been decided.

The Scottish Government has committed to developing the detail of the National Care Service through a co-design process alongside a range of stakeholders, particularly with people who access support, those who deliver it and unpaid carers. This will include Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards, Health Boards and Local Authorities among others.

Glasgow City Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership are committed to providing ongoing communications on developments and progress, and any implications the Bill will have on staff and services.



### Why are Health Board staff not in scope for transfer to the National Care Service?

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) aims to make Scottish Ministers accountable for social care, as they are currently for health care, within Scotland. The Bill proposes to transfer responsibility for social care functions and the staff who carry out those functions from Local Authorities across Scotland to the National Care Service.

Health Boards are already accountable to Scottish Ministers, and it is anticipated that they will continue to provide health services commissioned by local Care Boards. This is different from the position with social care support, where the Bill proposes to move accountability from Local Authorities to Scottish Ministers.

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### Glasgow City Council and Health and Social Care Partnership

#### What would the National Care Service mean for health and social care integration?

The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) will have implications for Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards, Local Authorities and the National Health Service. A National Care Service as currently proposed would likely see Integration Joint Boards replaced by Care Boards that are directly accountable to and funded by Scottish Ministers. It is proposed that Care Boards will plan, commission and potentially deliver National Care Service services within their local area.

At this stage any further implications are not fully understood because, as a 'framework' piece of legislation, the detail of the Bill is not yet drafted or decided on, and it will be developed and agreed on over the months and years to come.

The Scottish Government has however committed to developing the detail of the Bill in a co-produced way with the range of stakeholders who will be impacted by it or have an interest in it, including Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards, Health Boards and Local Authorities among others. The Scottish Parliament published its [Call for Views](#) (consultation) on the Bill and Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership, its Integration Joint Board and the Council submitted responses to it. [Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership's response](#) and its [Integration Joint Board's response](#) to the Call for Views, as well as [other responses](#), are available on the Scottish Government's website.

Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership and its Integration Joint Board intend to fully participate in future engagement and consultation opportunities.

### What would the National Care Service mean for Integration Joint Boards?

A National Care Service as currently proposed would see Integration Joint Boards replaced by Care Boards that are directly accountable to and funded by Scottish Ministers. It is proposed that Care Boards will plan, commission and potentially deliver National Care Service services within their local area. The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) also allows Scottish Ministers to establish 'Special Care Boards' that could provide certain services at a national level for all of Scotland.

Apart from detailing that power will lie with Ministers to appoint and remove Care Board members and Chief Executives, the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill does not provide any further detail on the governance, accountability, membership, number or geographical areas of the Care Boards but the Bill does require that together they cover the whole of Scotland.

The Scottish Government intends to develop the Care Boards through a co-design process with a range of stakeholders, particularly with people who access support, those who deliver it and unpaid carers. This will include Health and Social Care Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards, Health Boards and Local Authorities among others.

### How is Glasgow City Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership planning for the National Care Service?

Glasgow has established a programme for the National Care Service to support the work of the National Care Service as proposals are developed by the Scottish Government, with officers from Glasgow City Council and Health and Social Care Partnership. The programme sets out to:

- ensure the Council (including the Health and Social Care Partnership) is fully engaged in the Scottish Government's development of the National Care Service, including participation in consultation and engagement activity and co-design
- ensure the Council establishes a baseline of assets, liabilities, property and staff for services and functions that are within the scope of the National Care Service (as currently set out in the Bill and then in future iterations)
- ensure that risks and issues arising from the implementation of the National Care Service to the Council, its services, partners, and citizens are clearly understood, documented and where possible mitigated or escalated
- ensure that staff, partners, and stakeholders are kept informed about the implementation of the National Care Service, the activity being taken by the Council to engage with this and the resulting changes to service delivery.

An overview of the Glasgow City Council and Health and Social Care Partnership National Care Service governance structure is noted in the table below:

| Group                                  | Description   |
|--|---|
| Steering Group                         | Overseeing and providing strategic direction and leadership to the development and implementation of our programme, which is chaired by the Council's Chief Executive and attended by senior staff from our Health and Social Care Partnership and other Council services.  |
| Co-ordination Group                    | To support the Steering Group and oversee the co-ordination, monitoring and reporting of the workstreams.   |
| Workstreams                            | Focusing on key areas of National Care Service proposals and how they may impact the Council and Health and Social Care Partnership. The workstreams include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• Human Resources and Engagement (including a Communications subgroup)</li> <li>• Finance (including Assets and Liabilities)</li> <li>• Services and Governance (including a Commissioning subgroup)</li> <li>• Chief Social Work Officer.</li> </ul> |
| HSCP Executive Group and Working Group | Bringing together all care group operations and business support functions across the HSCP.   |

Programme management support to the National Care Service programme is being provided by Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership.

### **Will this impact on Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership's existing plans for improvement and transformation?**

The Scottish Government intends to implement the new National Care Service by the end of the parliamentary term in 2026. The [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) is in the very early stages, and it will take some time to develop the detail of what the National Care Service will look like.

Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership and Integration Joint Board are committed to engaging in future consultation and co-design opportunities, whilst continuing to deliver health and social care services and improvements across Glasgow. Glasgow City Integration Joint Board has developed a new [Strategic Plan](#) for 2023-26 outlining its vision and priorities for health and social care in Glasgow and how they will be delivered by the Health and Social Care Partnership and partners over the next three years.

### **How will Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership communicate updates and progress?**

Both Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership and the Council are committed to providing ongoing communications on developments and progress, and any implications the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#) will have.

A communications strategy is currently being developed, which will include regular briefings and a dedicated webpage for the National Care Service on Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership's website: [glasgowcity.hscp.scot/nsc](https://glasgowcity.hscp.scot/nsc).

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## **Regulation**

### **What is the National Social Work Agency?**

The Scottish Government proposes to establish a new National Social Work Agency as part of the National Care Service at a national level.

The National Social Work Agency's objectives will be to support and invest in the social work profession by providing national leadership and overseeing and supporting social work in the following areas:

- education (pre and post-qualifying)
- improvement (by establishing a Centre of Excellence) and scaling up good practice
- workforce planning
- training and development and social work terms and conditions (including pay).

#### **What impact will the National Care Service have on the Scottish Social Services Council?**

The Scottish Government has advised that the implementation of the National Care Service will have little impact on the Scottish Social Services Council.

The Scottish Social Services Council will sit outside the framework for the National Care Service and will continue to operate as the independent professional regulator for the social work and social services workforce in Scotland.

#### **Will the Care Inspectorate still be the independent regulator to Scottish care services?**

The Scottish Government has confirmed that the Care Inspectorate will continue to operate as the independent regulator for Scotland's care services. It will sit outside the framework of the National Care Service but work in collaboration with it in relation to the delivery of social care services in Scotland.

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### **Other**

#### **How can I find out more?**

There are several useful links noted below that provide further information on the proposals of the [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#).

#### **Useful links**

- **National Care Service**  
<https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-care/national-care-service/>
- **National Care Service (Scotland) Bill**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/National-Care-Service-Scotland-Bill>
- **National Care Service (Scotland) Bill Supporting Documents**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/national-care-service-scotland-bill/introduced>

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- **National Care Service – Your Views on the Bill (and Responses)**
  - <https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/ncs/>
  - [https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/national-care-service-bill/consultation/published\\_select\\_respondent](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/national-care-service-bill/consultation/published_select_respondent)
- **Independent Review of Adult Social Care**  
<https://www.gov.scot/groups/independent-review-of-adult-social-care/>
- **A National Health Care for Scotland: Consultation**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-care-service-scotland-consultation/pages/2/>
- **National Care Service Co-design**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/design-the-national-care-service/>