

North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

While we note that the Call for Views does not specifically address the issue of funding, we have particular concerns that the Bill does not detail the level or methodology for calculating the financial contributions anticipated from local authorities.

The Bill proposes that all organisations who currently carry out, or have in the past carried out, functions in relation to the safeguarding, protection or care of children will make fair and meaningful contributions to the Scheme, but does not define this.

Without knowing the extent of any financial exposure which North Ayrshire Council may face as a result of this legislation, we are unable to provide comments on this aspect of the Bill.

However, there is a recognition through the COSLA Directors of Finance group that the issue of local authorities' financial exposure should be addressed at a national level. This may result in the development of distribution modes whereby local authorities contribute on an agreed distribution basis or, alternatively, there could be a top slicing of government grant in relation to this. The benefit of the top slicing approach is mostly one of speed, i.e. individual local authorities would spend less time disputing the historic boundaries for potential liability.

I hope that those brief comments are helpful.

Yours Sincerely

David MacRitchie
Chief Social Work Officer

28th September 2020