

## Finance and Constitution Committee Questionnaire

This questionnaire is being sent to those organisations that have an interest in, or which may be affected by the [Health and Care \(Staffing\) \(Scotland\) Bill's Financial Memorandum \(FM\)](#).

In addition to the questions below, please add any other comments you may have which would assist the Committee's scrutiny of the FM.

### Consultation

1. Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP) had representatives at the regional consultation event held in Aberdeen on February 5, 2018. Our representative outlined that the resource implications of the proposed arrangements were identified as an area of risk if under-estimated and unaffordable, but the assumptions set out in the FM were not shared at the event

2. If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?

Our representatives believed that the following themes were accurately reflected in the FM:

- Training
- Infrastructure
- Reporting, administration
- Implications for direct costs in relation to future staffing levels.

However, they did not believe that the following themes were captured in the FM:

- Risks in relation to discouragement of innovative solutions that might deliver efficiencies
- Risks of unintended consequences to financial viability of service and particularly to SMEs

3. Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?

It was not felt that there was sufficient time to contribute. It is felt that the 2017 consultation excluded key stakeholders in the social care sector and predated the publication of Part 2 of the National Health and Social Care Workforce Plan that recommends the coproduction of multi-disciplinary workforce planning tools.

There was a 15-day period remaining after the consultation event to the closing date of the consultation.

### Costs

4. If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

The FM indicates significant uncertainty in relation to estimates for costs in a social care setting. It is felt that there would be a requirement to increase staffing numbers, which would increase costs.

It is noted that the costs of the development of a tool and methodology 'may be spread across other organisations that the Care Inspectorate' and that the assumptions are hypothesised from NMWWPP and that this may not be appropriate.

Costs not fully funded by the SG borne by providers may be passed to the HSC Partnership. It is noted that the SG 'would consider providing support for' staff training but there is not an explicit assurance on this. Reporting is identified as carrying 'no significant additional financial implications' for providers. It is felt that an estimate of the costs would be useful.

5. Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?

It has been acknowledged that there is uncertainty in the FM in regarding costs in relation to social care, which reduces confidence in their accuracy.

If other areas of care are to come within the scope of the legislation (as was confirmed in the consultation - all care service providers required to register as listed in schedule 12 under Regulation 15 SCSWIS Requirements for Care services Regs 2011) there will be significant additional costs.

The assumption on the costs in relation to staffing levels has a degree of uncertainty. It is felt that the potential impacts on Local Authorities/HSCPs as providers and commissioners is understated. The unintended consequences of the legislation may have hidden costs.

6. If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?

The capacity to meet the financial costs should be fully supported by additional monies from SG.

7. Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill's estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?

The uncertainty is acknowledged in the FM but the reliability of the costs is not quantified and margins of uncertainty are unclear

## **Wider Issues**

8. Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?

Costs will be incurred if other areas of care are to come within the scope of the legislation (as was confirmed in the consultation - all care service providers required to register as listed in schedule 12 under Regulation 15 SCSWIS Requirements for Care services Regs 11). Providers and commissioners will incur additional costs if these are not met by new monies from SG.

9. Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?

It is believed that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, and it is not felt that it is possible to quantify these costs.