

From: Burns N (Niamh)  
Sent: 03 June 2014 09:18:41  
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
Subject: FW: Letter from COSLA President

Attachments: 14-06-02 Letter to Cabinet Secretary HWB re integration.doc

MCU,

Grateful for an MR

Thanks

Niamh Burns  
Assistant Private Secretary (Correspondence) to Alex Neil MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing  
The Scottish Government,  
St Andrew's House,  
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
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Sent: 02 June 2014 18:07  
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing  
Subject: Letter from COSLA President

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Please find attached a letter from COSLA's President, Cllr David O'Neill in relation to health and social care integration.

Kind Regards

Stuart Johnston  
Policy Officer (Member Support)  
COSLA, Verity House  
19 Haymarket Yards  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5BH

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EDINBURGH, EH12 5BH. <http://www.cosla.gov.uk>

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02 June 2014

Alex Neil MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing  
The Scottish Government  
St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear Alex

Further to our ongoing discussions on health and social care integration, I am writing in response to the Government's consultation on the draft regulations and guidance.

As you know, we have worked very closely over a number of years to ensure that the policy and legislation that governs health and social care is capable of delivering the systematic change that will be required over the next decade as a result of changing profiles of need and epidemiology. To that extent, we are broadly content with the direction set out in the regulations.

However, we do want to raise three issues which we think require to be addressed prior to the regulations being laid in parliament.

First, in respect of the local authority functions that must be delegated, we believe that the regulations are more broadly pitched around housing support than we had agreed. While recognising that housing support services have a key role to play in supporting a shift in the balance of care towards community settings, our members were concerned that *requiring* the delegation of housing support services could have the effect of imposing unworkable delivery models on councils' housing support functions. As you know, the common position we reached was that the function around aids and adaptations would be required to be delegated but that other housing support functions, including homelessness, personal support, tenancy support and so on would be at the discretion of local partnerships. To that extent, we would like the Scottish Government to amend the regulations prior to their introduction to parliament to clearly limit the mandatory element to aids and adaptations.

Second, regarding the scope of health functions to be delegated, we welcome the general approach but would underline that integration authorities must have sufficient control of the means to shift the balance of care from acute to community settings and take demand out of the system. This requires that a sufficient proportion of resources transfer to the partnerships and that these allow for control of relevant care pathways across community, primary and acute care. We look forward to working with the Scottish Government to ensure that the statutory guidance on the mandating of relevant specialities trailed in the consultation documentation is sufficiently robust in this respect.

WHEN CALLING PLEASE ASK FOR: Beth Hall 0131 474 9305    [beth.hall@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:beth.hall@cosla.gov.uk)

COSLA, Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh EH12 5BH Telephone 0131 474 9200 Fax 0131 474 9292 Internet [www.cosla.gov.uk](http://www.cosla.gov.uk)

Third, in terms of the national health and wellbeing outcomes, we view our joint ownership of these as particularly important and hence recognise that these should be agreed between national and local government. If there are any changes to the suite of national outcomes following consultation, COSLA Leaders look forward to receiving a final set of outcomes for agreement prior to finalisation and submission to Parliament.

In the meantime, we have a minor suggestion in respect of Outcome 7 ('People who use health and social care services are safe from harm') which we think will offer greater protection to health and social care partnerships. The majority of the population can be considered to be people who use health or social care services; clearly partnerships should not be held to account for their safety at all times and in all circumstances - the policy intent is to make partnerships accountable for the delivery of safe and effective care. It is therefore suggested that 'people using health and social care services are safe from harm' may be a better expression of the intended outcome, as it is more clearly anchored to the time and circumstance of accessing the services themselves.

It would be helpful if we could re-visit these points following the end of the current consultation period, when you will have an indication of any themes emerging and the Scottish Government's likely response to them.

In the meantime, our officials are currently exploring dates for our next bilateral meeting, at which I would be happy to expand on any of the points raised above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

Cllr David O'Neill  
COSLA President