

Response from Midlothian Voluntary Action

DRAFT REGULATIONS AND ORDERS RELATING TO PUBLIC BODIES (JOINT WORKING) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014 – SET 2

Prescribed groups which must be consulted when preparing or revising integration schemes; preparing draft strategic plans; and when making decisions affecting localities relating to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014

1. What other groups should be included within the draft Regulations

We would like to see the following additions:

- Third Sector Interfaces;
- Third sector organisations in addition than those “carrying activities relating to health or social care” as this wording potentially excludes other interested parties, e.g. equalities groups.

Membership, Powers and Proceedings of Integration Joint Boards established under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014; Establishment, Membership and Proceedings of Integration Joint Monitoring Committees; Prescribed membership of Strategic Planning Groups

1. Are there any additional non-voting members who should be included in the Integration Joint Board

We do not believe that one representative is sufficient for the non-voting members e.g. third sector. We would like to see the requirement to be **at least one** representative **plus a deputy** to ensure regular attendance. Attendance could be a particular issue for smaller voluntary groups, carers, and service users. We have found from experience that having a deputy that can stand in makes for more efficiency and better results.

We would also like to see engagement with the local Third Sector Interfaces to be required as they can serve as a conduit to engagement with the wider third sector.

General Comments

The Scottish Government is also currently consulting on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill. They state that “*The Scottish Government is committed to our communities being supported to do things for themselves – community empowerment – and to people having their voices heard in the planning and delivery of services – community engagement and participation.*”

We are concerned that there is not a commitment to the above in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

This consultation document uses unnecessary complex language and is therefore likely to be off-putting to many third sector organisations.

We are concerned that the role of the voluntary sector in community planning partnerships, which have taken a long time to develop, will be reduced.

We are concerned that the role of the Third Sector has been sidelined in this document. We are also concerned how the Performance Reports would fit in with the SOAs (Single Outcome Agreements).



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Midlothian Voluntary Action is registered in Scotland as a company limited by guarantee (no. SC219994) and as a charity (no. SC008286). Registered office: 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE

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