

Review of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland

For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Key Issues

- Offers members an update on the moves by Scottish Government and COSLA to reshape the Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreement process.
- Highlights possible legislative changes with regard to Community Planning.
- Highlights new national structures to address and progress Scottish Government and COSLAs approach to Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements.
- Identifies a revised date of April 2013 for the preparation of refreshed Single Outcome Agreements.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) carried out a review of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) earlier this year and are now in the process of implementing actions arising from the review. The main proposals from the Scottish Government and COSLA to progress the recommendations contained in the review are highlighted overleaf:

- A new statutory duty on individual organisations to work together to improve outcomes for local communities through participation in community planning partnerships and the provision of resources to deliver SOAs.
 - Placing formal requirements on CPPs to ensure that collaboration is as effective as possible and
 - Establishing joint national group to provide strategic leadership and guidance to CPPs.
- These measures are intended to strengthen Community Planning so that it becomes a core part of the public service reform agenda as reflected in the recommendations contained within the Christie Commission report.

2.0 Progress Made to Date

2.1 (a) SOA's

A degree of progress has been made to date and this is reflected below:-

- National Community Planning and SOA Group is established
- Chaired by Pat Watters with membership drawn from local government political leaders, relevant Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers, Senior Leaders from public bodies e.g. local government, NHS and the 3rd Sector together with two with Community Planning Partnership chairs.
- Terms of reference for the Group is currently being developed.
- The Group has had its first meeting.
- Early priority is to develop and refresh SOA guidance, this is expected to be produced in Autumn 2012 for refreshed SOAs to be in place for April 2013.

(b) Community Planning

A Project Board has been set including senior officials led by the Scottish Government and COSLA including members of SOLACE, Audit Scotland the Improvement Service and the 3rd Sector.

- Remit is to oversee the implementation of the proposals arising from the review.
- The immediate priorities are developing effective communication and engagement arrangements with stakeholders.
- Work to establish a new national group.
- Other work to include:
 - Deepening and extending community engagement;
 - Leadership and culture change to secure more effective partnership working;
 - Embedding partnerships with the 3rd Sector
 - Developing the proposed new duties on partners and CPPs
 - Facilitating the development of new SOA guidance by the national CP/SOA group
 - Guidance for public bodies on the importance of engagement with Community Planning and SOAs
 - Analysis and use of evidence by CPPs in the preparation of SOAs and wider community planning activity:

- Building capacity of CPPs to make a decisive contribution to the delivery of better local outcomes and
- The interface between community planning and other public service reform initiatives.
- Linkages with proposed community empowerment and renewal consultation/bill.

The APSE briefing on the consultation with regard to the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill highlighted Community Planning Specifically it made provision for new statutory provisions to fulfil the recommendations of the review.

3.0 **Next Steps**

- 3.1 It is envisaged by the Scottish Government and COSLA that the recommendations of the review can be implemented relatively quickly in terms of refocusing the work of the Community Planning Partnerships and SOAs in the 32 local authority areas within Scotland.

4.0 **APSE Comment and Conclusion**

- 4.1 APSE supports the developments taking place nationally through the respective groups. However one area of particular concern or development centres around the need to engage front line services in the refinement of Single Outcome Agreements. A number of APSE Advisory Groups have indicated there are limited opportunities for frontline services to engage with the SOA process. It needs to be recognised that front line services have a pivotal role in delivering outcomes and this needs to be fully recognised by local councils as part of their supporting arrangements for planning and performance management with regard to SOA delivery.

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