

## Care Commission to be replaced by new scrutiny and improvement body in 2011

### *New Improvement and Scrutiny Bodies for Health and for Social Care and Social Work*

#### **What are the changes?**

In November 2008, Scottish Government Ministers announced that two new improvement and scrutiny bodies: Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) and Social Care and Social Work Improvement Services (SCSWIS), will be set up for operation by April 2011. These two new bodies are designed to replace existing regulatory bodies such as the Care Commission and the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA).

In effect SCSWIS will take over the duties of the Care Commission (with respect to social care), the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) as well as that of HMIE's role inspecting child protection and integrated services for children. HIS will take over the duties of NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS) and the Care Commission's role inspecting Independent Healthcare.

This means the Care Commission's current role of registering and inspecting out of school care services will be carried out by the new scrutiny body SCSWIS as of April 2011. HMIE's current role of inspecting child protection and integrated services for children will also be carried out by SCSWIS as of April 2011.

#### **Why make these changes?**

The Scottish government is keen to reduce the number of public agencies which will bring with it a number of benefits:

- Fewer bodies will make it easier for everyone, particularly the public, to understand.
- The changes mean a reduction in the overall amount of scrutiny activity for service organisations while ensuring that individual services are scrutinised in an appropriate and proportionate way.
- Service providers will have more time to concentrate on improving services and delivering better outcomes for people who use services.
- Fewer bodies should contribute to less bureaucracy and therefore better value for money.
- Verified self-evaluation by service providers will be further developed to help streamline the amount of external scrutiny on service providers.
- Multi-agency inspections require closer/ more effective joint working by the improvement and scrutiny bodies. The new bodies will have new legal powers to allow them to carry this out more effectively.

(Ref: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/Background](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/Background))



### **How will this affect out of school care providers?**

Currently the details of how the new regulatory bodies will operate are being developed, however, the Scottish Government is keen to stress that the transition between the Care Commission and SCSWIS should be smooth with little disruption. The new regulatory bodies will be set up in 2010 as “shadow organisations” and will consult and work with current existing regulatory bodies e.g. Care Commission, to develop duties and systems to start in April 2011.

**Grading schemes** - it is expected that new arrangements will build on the Care Commission's current grading scheme.

**Frequency of inspections** – the Scottish Parliament will decide the minimum frequency of inspections based on evidence through public consultation. Similarly to the Care Commission, SCSWIS will have the right to inspect poorer services more often than the stated minimum.

**The National Care Standards** – a review of the standards will begin later in 2009 but it is expected that the focus will remain strongly on service users and take account of the new arrangements and structures.

### **Consultation**

The Scottish Out of School Care Network has asked to be involved in the development of the new scrutiny bodies and will provide opportunities to consult the sector on any developments.

Further information on the changes and development of the new scrutiny bodies: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny)

If you have any comments or wish to raise any issues about the changes, please contact SOSCEN.

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