

Draft Regulations Relating to Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 – Set 1

Consultation response from the British Red Cross

July 2014

Who we are

1 We help people in crisis, whoever and wherever they are. We are part of a global network that responds to conflicts, natural disasters and individual emergencies. We enable vulnerable people in the UK and abroad to prepare for and withstand emergencies in their own communities, and when the crisis is over we help them to recover and move on with their lives.

2 The British Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which comprises:

- > The International Committee of the Red Cross
- > The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and
- > 187 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide.

3 As a member of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the British Red Cross is committed to, and bound by its Fundamental Principles. These are: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

As an auxiliary to government in the UK, we help the emergency services and statutory authorities in any way we can to meet the needs of people affected by emergencies, big or small.

4 In Scotland, the Red Cross has over 4,000 volunteers supported by 500 staff members who deliver our humanitarian work in communities across the country. Last year in Scotland, we responded to more than 400 emergencies, trained more than 30,000 people in life-saving first aid, assisted more than 550 asylum seekers and refugees and reached more than 23,000 young people with humanitarian education.

5 In relation to health and social care, we helped 32,000 people live more independently through our health and social care services in Scotland last year. We provide valuable time-limited support to vulnerable people, helping them live independently in their own homes – reducing admissions to hospitals, residential and nursing care.

6 Our largest service is regulated by Care Inspectorate, and its staff are PVG-checked, qualified and trained to work with both older people and vulnerable adults.

Introduction

The British Red Cross welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. Our services build confidence, enabling people to live independently in their own home.

We provide:

- Extra support and care following discharge from hospital
- Assistance around the home
- Befriending to prevent social isolation
- Loans of equipment, such as wheelchairs and mobility aids

In addition the Red Cross offers a regulated health and social care service, *Options for Independence*. This supports adults with health or disability issues. It provides a range of support to meet the individual needs of service users. The service aims to help people live independent lives.

Our response is based upon our experience of delivering services like these, all across Scotland. We are broadly supportive of the principle of health and social care integration, and our points will reflect the knowledge gained from this work. The following pages show only those questions which we have responded to.

Response to consultation questions

Annex 2(D) Question 3

Are there any further comments you would like to offer on these draft regulations?

The British Red Cross understands the rationale behind the focus on these proposed delegated functions. These would appear appropriate for the purpose of delivering an integrated health and social care service. Integration offers an excellent opportunity to make sure that we focus on both prevention and outcomes.

The Red Cross would welcome further clarification, in the form of a timeline for implementation and evaluation of integration. This must establish clear goals and deadlines. We would also call for transparency at each stage of the process.

Annex 3(D) Question 4

Are there any further comments you would like to offer on these draft regulations?

The British Red Cross agrees that there will be challenges in delegating these functions effectively. Uppermost will be making sure that care is delivered seamlessly, especially where health boards and local authorities are not coterminous.

The Red Cross would also be concerned with a lack of continuity for service users, when some functions are delegated and others are not. We would ask that this is evaluated on an ongoing basis, in order to learn from the experiences of both users and providers.

Annex 4(D) Question 6

Are there any further comments you would like to offer on these draft regulations?

The British Red Cross gives a broad welcome to the draft outcomes. These reflect our desire to give people the opportunity to live their lives independently.

With outcome 2, we would question why there is a specific reference to, “disabilities, long term conditions, or who are frail”. The Red Cross would hope that everyone, regardless of such quoted issues, is treated fairly and given equal opportunities to make the most of their lives.

We would also question the language used in outcome 9. Specifically mentioning, “without waste” may appear somewhat prejudicial. The Red Cross and our partners always work to provide value for money in all that we do.

Annex 6(D) Question 3

Are there any further comments you would like to offer on these draft regulations?

The regulations must be allied to genuine stakeholder involvement and transparency, in order to achieve the act's policy intentions. Much of the day-to-day operations of the new integrated authorities may still appear unclear. We would therefore urge all parties to engage and share at every opportunity.