

## **Response from Midlothian Voluntary Action**

### **PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE INTEGRATION SCHEME RELATING TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (JOINT WORKING) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014**

Under “Local Governance arrangements for an integrated joint board ..” and for the “joint monitoring committee” MVA think it is important that it is specified that there should be at least one representative each for staff, carers, service users, and the third sector. Current wording could be read as one representative from among those groupings.

**“Participation and engagement”** – would like to see specific reference to staff, carers, service users and the third sector.

Workforce development – it is important that opportunities are available to third sector staff to participate in required workforce development. It is also important that there are no cost implications.

### **Proposals for prescribed functions that must be delegated by local authorities relating to the public bodies (joint working) (scotland) act 2014**

Very wide reaching – could potentially effect a wide range of voluntary organisations who might not have expected to be effected. Could be implications re funding, monitoring, reporting, and culture.

Most (if not all) of the functions listed are included in the current Community Planning Process in some areas. Although the Integration joint boards are included as Community Planning Partners in Schedule 1 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill, we are concerned that there could be a reduction in meaningful participation by the voluntary sector in local services as required involvement by third sector in integrated bodies is extremely limited.

## **Proposals for regulations prescribing functions that may or that must be delegated by a health board under the public bodies (joint working) (Scotland) act 2014**

Adult services that “may” be delegated are not specified – need more clarity.

Where do “transition” services fit in?

## **Proposals for national health and wellbeing outcomes relating to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014**

Need to be made available in Plain English and Easy Read.

Outcome 4 refers to “unwarranted variation and inconsistency in the quality of care and support”. This is an important issue but this outcome should not be taken to mean a desire towards centralisation and a move away from local services tailored to local people’s needs, to larger national services.

Outcome 8 makes no reference to third or private sectors – and it is unclear how much applies to these sectors.

## **Proposals for interpretation of what is meant by the terms health and social care professionals relating to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014**

We would like more clarity on who is included as “social care professionals” and who is not. Guidance on page 76 of consultation document states “other social care professionals who are not regulated by the Scottish Social Services Council but provide care or support to users of social care services” however question 3 above only refers SSSC registered workers.

It is likely that many third sector workers do not require to be registered with SSSC because of services provided but they should still be regarded as social care professionals.

### **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.



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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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