

Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill – Call for views

The Scottish Social Services Council is the regulator for the social work, social care and early years workforce in Scotland. Our work means the people of Scotland can count on social services being provided by a trusted, skilled and confident workforce.

We protect the public by registering social service workers, setting standards for their practice, conduct, training and education and by supporting their professional development. Where people fall below the standards of practice and conduct we can investigate and take action.

We:

- publish the national codes of practice for people working in social services and their employers
- register people working in social services and make sure they adhere to the SSSC Codes of Practice
- promote and regulate the learning and development of the social service workforce
- are the national lead for workforce development and planning for social services in Scotland
- are an ONS statistics provider.

Consultation questions

1. What are your views on the establishment of a Patient Safety Commissioner to scrutinise safety issues, deliver systematic improvements and amplify the patient voice in the provision of health care?

The SSSC believes that a person-centred approach is one of the best ways to improve outcomes for the users of services in health and social care settings. Therefore, we support the establishment of a Patient Safety Commissioner with the remit as laid out in the Bill.

2. What are your views on the proposed role and responsibilities of the Patient Safety Commissioner?

We support the proposed role and responsibilities of the Patient Safety Commissioner and would welcome the opportunity to work closely with the Patient Safety Commissioner where our remits intersect. For example, the data and intelligence the SSSC gathers on the composition of the social work, social care and early years sectors, our fitness to practise

referral data and our continued professional learning (CPL) resources may be able to assist the Patient Safety Commissioner to develop a clearer understanding of how healthcare and social care intersect. This information could be beneficial to promoting coordination across the patient safety landscape and developing a system-wide view of the healthcare system that takes both clinical and non-clinical settings for patient care into account.

3. What are your views on the proposed powers of the Patient Safety Commissioner?

The SSSC supports the proposed powers of the Patient Safety Commissioner.

4. What are your views on the appointment process for the Commissioner and the funding being provided to enable them to carry out their role?

The SSSC has no view on this.

5. Would you like to see any changes to the Bill? If so, what?

N/A

Scottish Social Services Council

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