

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Sue Webber MSP  
[ecyp.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:ecyp.committee@parliament.scot)

Your ref: National Care Service (Scotland) Bill

1 November 2022

Dear Convener,

### **National Care Service (Scotland) Bill**

Further to the letter of 11 August 2022 from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, I write to provide the Committee with an update on the independent research project on children's services. The Cabinet Secretary's letter explained that the Scottish Government was commissioning research to ensure the decision made on children's services is one which best meets the needs of children, young people and families.

The Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) has been commissioned to conduct an independent research project on the delivery of children's services.

The research will gather evidence to help inform how best to deliver children's services in the light of the introduction of the National Care Service. The research will consider the best way to Keep The Promise and improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The purpose of the research is to answer the question: "How do we ensure that children, young people and families get the help they need, when they need it?".

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

CELCIS will be conducting five strands of research:

1. Rapid Evidence Review of published literature
2. 'Deep Dive' to examine the approaches to integration and delivery of children's services taken in a range of high-income countries
3. National scoping and mapping study to explore the different models of integrated service delivery and any potential effects on a range of outcomes.
4. National surveys of the Children's Services workforce and Children's Services leaders to build on the emerging findings from the national scoping and mapping study.
5. Targeted focus groups/interviews with professionals to explore and better understand the findings from Strands 3 and 4.

The full research project proposal is provided with this letter to provide the Committee with full details of what the different strands of the research will cover.

To ensure the independence of the research, an Independent Steering Group for Children's Services Research has been established. The group has been set up to oversee the research project and provide guidance and support to the research team. I have appointed Professor Brigid Daniel as Chair of the Group. Professor Daniel is joined by 11 further members from academic and practice backgrounds. Full details of the group's members and their biographies are also provided with this letter for the Committee. The group held its first meeting on 4 October 2022.

The research commenced in September 2022 and will take place over the period of one year, concluding in Autumn 2023. A final report will be published shortly after the research concludes. Interim findings will also be provided and published where possible and regular progress updates will be provided by CELCIS to Scottish Government officials.

Finally, thank you for inviting me to attend the Committee session on 23 November to speak to the Committee about the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill and children's services. I look forward to doing so.

Yours sincerely

**CLARE HAUGHEY**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™**  
We invest in people Silver



α