

Commissioning and procurement

- Should commissioning and procurement be organised and overseen locally (i.e., allowing different forms of commissioning and procurement) or nationally (e.g., through Scotland Excel) – what are the risks and benefits of either approach?

The current Scotland Excel approach is not working, this is due to local decisions overriding Scotland Excel. An example of this - a rate is submitted through excel but locally its not accepted. Therefore, Scotland Excel has no power unless that power/decision making is changed to national. This can also bring risks where local commissioning based on knowledge and need is used. So, a national approach with an integrated local oversee maybe the way forward.

- What impacts (positive and negative) could the Bill have on commissioning and procurement?

Positive – could see for the first time social care being an equal partner in developing services. Fair rates across the sector which will create fair pay.

Negative – could create pockets (small/large) of unmet need if local knowledge is not at the forefront.

Bureaucracy, regulation of staff and services

- Do you see the need for any changes to how care services or care staff are currently regulated? If so, do you see those changes reflected in the Bill? What changes would you like to see made to the Bill to enable those changes to take place?

I think the answer to this will be in the detail. However social care is in crisis and some of the regulation currently in place for example that all social care staff need to have a SVQ2, is starting to impact on capacity. i.e., some of our older workforces do not wish to do the qualification and therefore will be unable to work in social care in the coming years. This is and will continue to impact on the capacity over the coming few years. Therefore, a balanced approach to regulation will need to be considered while we navigate through the crisis and future planning of social care models and capacity