

# Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

## 18th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Tuesday, 17 May 2022

### Social care update

#### Note by the Clerk

#### Introduction

1. At its meeting today, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee will take further evidence on social care in Scotland.
2. The Committee will hear from the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care.

#### Background

3. Audit Scotland and the Accounts Commission published a [briefing on Social Care](#) in January 2022. This aimed to summarise the key challenges facing Scotland's social care sector, as identified in previous work by Audit Scotland, and progress towards addressing these.

4. The main challenges the briefing identifies are:

- The importance of the service user's perspective and voice.
- The fragility of the social care workforce.
- Tensions between cost and quality in the commissioning of social care.
- Instability of leadership and leaders failing to work effectively together.
- A lack of key data, and ineffective use of existing data, to inform decision-making.
- Increasing financial challenges and threats to the sustainability of services, including lack of progress in shifting resources to preventative approaches.

5. Providing further context for today's evidence session, the Scottish Government has recently published its [analysis of the consultation responses to the National Care Service Consultation](#).
6. This session follows a previous evidence session with stakeholders from the social care sector on [22 February 2022](#). This focused on addressing current

challenges facing the adult social care sector, as highlighted by Audit Scotland's briefing on Social Care.

7. The Public Audit Committee took evidence from the Auditor General for Scotland on Audit Scotland's social care briefing on [3 March 2022](#). It took further evidence on [21 April 2022](#) from:
  - Caroline Lamb, Chief Executive for NHS Scotland and Director-General for Health and Social Care;
  - Donna Bell, Director for Social Care and National Care Service Development;
  - Nicola Dickie, Director of People Policy; and
  - Sarah Watters, Director of Membership and Resources, all Scottish Government.
8. The Public Audit Committee wrote to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee [on 5 May 2022](#) suggesting areas where the Committee might wish to undertake further scrutiny. In particular, it highlighted the following themes:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The pace of implementation of the briefing's recommendations</li><li>• Funding</li><li>• Data gaps</li></ul> |
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**Clerk to the Committee**  
**12 May 2022**