

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Tuesday, 29 October 2024
28th Meeting, 2024 (Session 6)

Independent Review of Gender Identity Services for Children and Young People – CMO session

Note by the Clerk

Background

1. A [final report](#) from the Cass Review was published on 10 April 2024 and made 32 recommendations.
2. The Review was commissioned by NHS England to make recommendations on how to improve NHS gender identity services and ensure that children and young people who are questioning their gender identity or experiencing gender dysphoria receive a high standard of care.
3. The report describes what is known about young people who are seeking support from NHS England and sets out the recommended clinical approach to care and support. It also makes recommendations on the quality improvement and research infrastructure required to strengthen the evidence base.
4. Since publication of the final report, the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health, Jenni Minto MSP, has made statements to Parliament [on 23 April 2024](#) and [on 3 September 2024](#) regarding the review and gender identity healthcare for young people.
5. On 5 July 2024, the Scottish Government published "[Cass Review – Implications for Scotland](#)" which sets out the findings of a multidisciplinary clinical team established by the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland to consider the recommendations of the Cass review in the context of Scottish services.
6. The Committee has held two evidence sessions so far regarding the Cass Review and its implications for Scotland – one session with [Dr Hilary Cass on 7 May 2024](#) and one session with representatives from [Sandyford Clinic, NHS GGC and NHS Lothian on 17 September 2024](#).
7. On 2 October 2024, the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee [wrote to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee](#) in relation to [Petition PE2104 "End the pause on prescribing puberty blockers to children in Scotland"](#). The letter advises that the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee considered the petition at its meeting on 25 September 2024 and agreed to close it. It goes on to request that the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee consider the issues raised by the petition as part of its ongoing scrutiny work in this area.

Today's meeting

8. At today's meeting, Members will take evidence from –

- **Professor Sir Gregor Smith**, Chief Medical Officer
- **Professor Graham Ellis**, Deputy Chief Medical Officer
- **Professor Alison Strath**, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

Clerks to the Committee

24 October 2024