Where are we now?

The Scottish Government’s 12-week public consultation on the National Health and Social Care Standards review concluded on 22nd January, with 500 responses submitted by people and organisations involved with health, social work and social care, childcare and early-learning, and various other types of care and support services.

We would like to thank you and your networks for your involvement and participation in the consultation, which included people who use health and social care services, commissioners, service providers, interested groups and those who work in health and social care.

The consultation was supported by a range of promotional activities which included presentations and road shows across Scotland, articles in the national press, publications, conferences, a suite of short films and a social media campaign.

Over the consultation period, people across the country had an opportunity to comment and help shape the final Standards. The new Standards will ensure that people across Scotland receive the same high standard of care and support, delivered in a way which reflects their own personal needs and circumstances, in all health and social care settings.

The new Standards sit beneath the five overarching principles (listed below) and represent a significant development for people in Scotland as they set out what people should experience every time they use health and/or social care services.

Overarching Principles

- Dignity and respect
- Compassion
- Be included
- Responsive care and support
- Wellbeing

A full explanation of the principles can be found here.
Next steps

The responses to the public consultation will be reviewed and analysed over the coming months and the consultation summary report will be published in April 2017. Comments received will influence what, if any, changes are required and what the final Standards look like before being approved by Ministers in late spring/early summer 2017.

The next phase of the review is to support everyone to familiarise themselves with the new standards and prepare for full implementation from April 2018. An Implementation Group will soon be established to oversee this vital phase.

The Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland will also consider the consultation feedback, to inform the review of their respective inspection and quality assurance methodologies. This includes a review of the definition of care services (as specified in Schedule 12 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010) to help remove barriers providers of flexible, innovative services may be experiencing.

For updates about the review of the National Care Standards, please visit Scottish Government website or www.newcarestandards.scot

Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 January 17</td>
<td>Public consultation closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>Consultation: Research Findings and Summary Report</td>
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<td></td>
<td>New Standards approved by Scottish Ministers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2017 onwards</td>
<td>Rollout / familiarisation of new Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2018</td>
<td>Full Implementation of new Standards across health and social care.</td>
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