

Since my appointment in December 2010, the Chair of SCSWIS and I have made a number of key decisions to enable the safe and smooth transition of functions and activities from the three existing bodies (Care Commission, Social Work Inspection Agency, HMIE Child Protection team) to SCSWIS.

As you can see we have quickly chosen a new corporate identity for the organisation. A logo has been designed using the name Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) as described in the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010. We know that the name is lengthy but there is no obvious alternative. Rather than change it at this point we would like to hold a full consultation with all SCSWIS stakeholders, especially people who use services and their carers, so that we can have meaningful engagement on the purpose of the organisation and make sure this is reflected in our title.

I am pleased to announce the following appointments to the SCSWIS senior management team:

Karen Anderson appointed to Director of Operations (Planning and Public Reporting)
David Cumming appointed to Director of Operations (Scrutiny Programming)
Gill Ottley appointed to Director of Operations (Intelligence)
Gordon Weir appointed to Director of Resources

We have developed the [SCSWIS inspection plan summary for 2011-12](#) which incorporates the planned scrutiny work from all three existing bodies. The expected frequency of care service inspections has been set out in the chart. It uses intelligence from the Care Commission to enable more risk-based, targeted and proportionate regulation and inspection. A flexible inspection programme will be delivered which will be more responsive to information that SCSWIS gathers.

SCSWIS will include more use of unannounced inspections. It has been recognised for some time now, by local and central government alike, that regulation could be more responsive to what is known about the quality of services and to known risks. Services which are more risky and which perform less well will be inspected more often while less risky and better quality services will be inspected less often. Even so, services with higher grades will still be subject to random spot checks.

We will place some reliance on self evaluation by service providers, but that self evaluation will be validated by SCSWIS through a number of ways and not simply be taken at face value. Each service will be required to submit an up-to-date self evaluation report every year and will be expected to retain the evidence upon which the evaluation is based for random validation. **All service providers will be required to keep SCSWIS up-to-date with any significant changes in the service which could affect quality or risk.**



Notification requirements will be issued to all providers setting this out.

SCSWIS will investigate complaints made against regulated care services and will publish upheld and partially upheld complaints on the SCSWIS website. We will use information from a range of sources, such as previous inspections, grades, complaints, self evaluation, notifications and any enforcement activity to update risk assessments on individual services each year and on a regular basis as further information is gathered. These risk assessments will help inspectors to decide when the next inspection of the service should take place.

The inspection plan summary shows that SCSWIS will continue to regulate care services and carry out social work and child protection inspections and play a significant part in the Scottish improvement programme for services to children and adults. Gradually these functions will be integrated into one scrutiny and improvement system. Such a radical shift will need a three year programme of change and require the building of new relationships with local authorities, NHS partners, care providers, commissioners, people who use care services and their carers and close collaboration with other scrutiny bodies and national policy makers.

We are currently developing a programme of external communications. An information leaflet detailing all the changes and what to expect on the 01 April 2011 will be available on the websites of the three existing bodies and in my next external bulletin by the beginning of March 2011.

Jacquie Roberts OBE
Interim Chief Executive of SCSWIS

