

RCSLT Scotland Briefing Programme for Government 2019/20



This briefing outlines the main announcements that will have a direct impact on Speech & Language Therapy services and on people with communication or swallowing support needs.

For details please go to '[Protecting Scotland's Future – The Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-20](#)'.

If you have any comments or feedback please [email](#).

Government Bills

Children Bill (already announced)

- Ensure views and best interests of the child are heard in contact and residence cases
- Protections for victims of domestic abuse and their children
- Compliance with UNCRC (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) in family court cases

Mental Health

- establish a new **Adult Mental Health Collaborative** so public services, the third sector and communities can work together to improve support to people suffering from mental ill health.

Learning disabilities and autism

- developed a national anti-stigma campaign to improve how autistic people and their families are understood within their communities and launched a fund to remove barriers to employment for autistic people
- commissioned a **National Autism Implementation Team** to develop evidence-based improvements to reduce waits for diagnosis, improve autistic children's education experiences and increase access to employment
- worked in partnership with Education Scotland to update the online **Autism Education Toolbox** to improve teachers' knowledge of autism
- working with primary care teams and other partners in a number of areas, we will pilot health screening services specifically tailored to the needs of people with learning disabilities.

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- develop an online autism support service to help people live positively with autism while reducing demand for services through CAMHS, Psychological Therapies and other public services.

Neuroconditions

- publish Scotland's first ever **National Action Plan on Neurological Conditions**. It will set out how people with neurological conditions and their carers are involved in decisions about care and support, how we will improve the provision of coordinated health and social care and how we will build a sustainable neurological workforce for the future.
- provide new online learning modules for the health and social care workforce to help people who have lost their voice or have difficulty speaking. This will help staff to better identify people who may need or benefit from communication equipment and provide help to use that equipment.

Stroke

- develop a programme to improve stroke pathways and services, including prevention, treatment and care.
- appoint a Specialty Adviser to the Chief Medical Officer on Stroke Care
- review and improve the current stroke care bundle to improve outcomes for patients
- collaborate across government on stroke prevention and raising awareness of the signs of stroke
- begin work to scope out and define what a progressive stroke unit looks like
- ensure that a national planning framework is in place for a high quality and clinically safe thrombectomy service

Dementia

- fund a new large-scale project to test integrated, intensive dementia home care
- establish Scotland's first national **Brain Health Centre** to promote positive brain health as a way of reducing the risk of developing some dementias, linking with wider work to help encourage clinical research trial recruitment in Scotland as well as clinical research investment
- to develop our fourth **National Dementia Strategy**, building on our internationally recognised action in areas such as rights-based care and post-diagnostic support

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Public Health

Public Health Scotland, which will launch next year, will help to shape public health improvement across the whole of Scotland and enable us to make best use of Scotland's public health assets – data and intelligence and our public health professionals – in supporting local areas to create the right conditions for supporting health and wellbeing.

NHS Workforce

- this autumn, publish the results of an analysis undertaken to support recruitment and retention of staff.
- launch a national recruitment campaign for nursing, midwifery, allied health professionals and healthcare scientists later this year and a campaign for social work and social care professionals in 2020.

Integrated Health & Social Care

- develop a future vision for a sustainable care home sector as part of the wider health and social care landscape
- work with health and social care partnerships, local authorities, providers and improvement organisations to make it easier to design and implement models of care which support the workforce to provide flexible, consistent care and support for people across care at home, care homes and other types of support
- continue to support the sector to develop a national framework agreement for both purchased and commissioned care and support services. This will increase consistency in the way in which support is commissioned, purchased and delivered across the country, and will strengthen the focus on person-centred and outcomes focused practice
- create a blueprint for the development of hospital at home services across Scotland, based on existing good practice in areas such as Lanarkshire and Fife. The blueprint will form part of the **Framework for Community Health and Social Care Integrated Services**, which is currently under development.
- our next phase of primary care reform will promote innovation and coproduced local solutions, with a focus on rural and deprived communities.

Carers

- consulting on our plans for a **Carers Strategic Policy Statement** and will announce final plans early next year.

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Adults with Incapacity

We have consulted on proposals to reform the law on adults with incapacity. We want to make sure that people receive more support to make their own decisions and have better access to the care that they need. There are a number of sensitive areas that we continue to work on with stakeholders and, in the meantime, we will make improvements in training and support for those who work with adults with incapacity.

Children's Services

- working with local partnerships to improve the planning of children's services and the positive impacts of this will be incorporated into our review of children's services guidance later this year.
- continued to invest in the **Scottish Attainment Challenge** and **Pupil Equity Fund** with an investment of £182 million in 2019-20. This is part of a total of £750 million being made available between 2016 and 2021.
- funding will put money into the hands of headteachers to provide additional targeted support to help children and young people overcome barriers to achievement related to poverty.
- extend funding for the Scottish Attainment Challenge at current levels for a further year into 2021-22. This gives vital clarity to schools and local authorities that this support will continue.
- further evaluation report on the impact of the funding will be published in spring 2020.
- invest an additional £15 million in the coming year to improve the experiences of children who need additional support and their families. Working in partnership with local government, we will use this funding to secure additional frontline staff in this academic year.

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