

# AHPFS POSITION PAPER ON THE NCS

ahpf  
scotland

ALLIED HEALTH  
PROFESSIONS  
FEDERATION  
SCOTLAND

## August 2024

### National Care Service (Scotland) Bill – Stage 2

The National Care Service (NCS) presents an opportunity to help shape the social care delivery across Scotland. Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) are central to the NCS being a success. This paper will highlight how AHPs deliver against the proposed principles of the NCS and why they must be included.

#### INVESTMENT IN SOCIETY

- AHPs offer specialised care which promotes health and independence. Their work enables people to be healthier, live in their homes for longer and have a higher quality of life.
- AHPs are positioned at the interface between health and social care, and provide healthcare with multidisciplinary approach, ensuring services are well integrated and people get the care they need.
- AHPs reduce the burden on acute services, through preventative approaches and early intervention that reduces harm, keeps people in the community and reduces reliance on social care.
- AHPs play a pivotal role in supporting early discharge, reducing the costs associated with a lengthy hospital stay and enabling people to return to the community.
- AHPs deliver services that are underpinned by a human rights approach - the rights of the individual are respected, protected and fulfilled.
- AHPs possess a diverse range of specialist skills in diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, enablement and prescribing – all crucial elements of a well-functioning health and social care service.
- AHPs work with individuals in a range of settings in the community such as schools, community health centres and within people's homes.
- AHPs promote the physical and psychological wellbeing of those who require care.
- AHPs deliver dynamic and innovative models of care, promoting a modern approach to health and social care.

#### SAFETY

- AHPs are dedicated to protecting and improving the safety of the individuals they serve through comprehensive assessments, education, environmental modifications, infection control, emergency preparedness, and continuous monitoring. By working collaboratively with other health and social care professionals and adhering to evidence-based practices, AHPs ensure enhanced patient safety.

#### FINANCIAL STABILITY

- AHPs promote financial stability by providing cost-effective care that reduces the burden on the health and care systems.
- AHPs work through a preventative care and early intervention lens which reduces long-term care costs, minimises hospital admissions and speeds up discharge.
- AHPs promote independence by providing rehabilitation services, adaptations and assistive technologies.
- AHPs enhance productivity through supporting people to remain in or return to work.

#### COLLABORATION

- AHPs deliver services in a collaborative way, working alongside and bringing together a range of other health and social care professionals to ensure people receive the care they need. AHPs work with paid and unpaid carers to help them to undertake their caring role.
- AHPs have experience working collaboratively with service users to understand their needs and desires.

#### RECOGNISING THE NCS WORKFORCE

- AHPs are often underrepresented in leadership positions and are not recognised for the crucial role they play.

*"I was concerned about how my future was looking as I knew my condition was something I would never recover from, and I am finding it difficult to put into words how life changing this equipment has been for me."*

Occupational Therapy Service User in Glasgow

*"When I was first referred to rheumatology podiatry I had no idea the significant difference it would make. I had quite an unusual issue that no one could seem to help me with. But my podiatrist worked with me to come up with a solution. Rather than just giving me a cookie cutter thing that is given out."*

Podiatry Service User, Tayside

## PERSON CENTRED CARE

AHPs consider and adapt to the impact of social determinants of health, such as socioeconomic status, education, and access to resources, on an individual's health.

- In both physical and mental health, AHPs are involved in planning for care and support, enhancing independent living, and facilitating more good years to life. They have an outcomes-focused approach that places the service user and their ability to live their best life at its core.
- AHPs work at the interface between health and social care, working within multidisciplinary teams to provide holistic care for people. They are experienced working with people with complex needs and ensure that all aspects of an individual's health and well-being are addressed.

13,000+  
AHPs in  
Scotland

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- AHPs advance equality by ensuring that their services are accessible, inclusive, and tailored to meet the diverse needs of all individuals.
- AHPs play a vital role in the research community, identifying gaps and developing interventions that promote equality in health outcomes.
- AHPs seek feedback from patients and communities to identify barriers to access and areas for improvement in their service.

## INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION

- All AHPs work in a person-centred way, ensuring patients are included in decision making, effectively communicate their views and are advocated for.

Speech and Language Therapists are experts in inclusive communication and collaborate with other health professionals and carers to support better communication for all.

## AHPFs Call to Action: 10 point plan

1. Define what is meant by 'care' and 'community health'.
2. Define and promote the value of rehabilitation in health and social care in line with the Scottish Rehabilitation Framework, ensuring AHPs are at the centre of this work.
3. Do not include children's services until a robust consultation focused on the benefits and risks of this approach is undertaken.
4. Commit to creating a standardised, integrated and accessible electronic social care and health record.
5. Rename and reframe the National Social Work Agency to National Social Care Agency, to ensure AHPs that work in social care settings are included as core members of the social work workforce.
6. Engage the workforce as a service design stakeholder.
7. Provide clarity around what constitutes 'an emergency' for local care boards.
8. Commit to having an AHP lead within the NCS national board.
9. Commit to having an AHP lead within each local care board.
10. Commit to providing AHPs with the relevant ongoing education and training to adhere to the NCS principles.

**MEMBER ACTION: SEND THIS BRIEFING TO YOUR LOCAL MSP. FIND OUT WHO THAT IS [HERE](#).**

