

Community Planning under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: Consultation on Draft Guidance and Regulation



RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response.

Are you responding as an individual or an organization? (required)

- Individual
 Organisation

What is your name or your organisation's name? (required)

Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership

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The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference: (required)

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (anonymous)
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We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes

No

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Questions

Q1: The guidance identifies a series of principles for effective community planning. Do you agree with them? Should there be any others?

Please explain why.

We agree with the principles for effective community planning as set out in the Consultation Paper. It is also considered that there is a need to provide more guidance on:

- How the national priorities and resource distribution decisions of national statutory partners and other national public sector partners can be reconciled with local priorities and resource requirements arising from the work of Community Planning Partnerships.
- Cross border relationships with neighbouring Community Planning Partnerships.
- The role of independent contractors e.g. GPs and pharmacists, in relation to the Community Empowerment Act.

Q2: The draft guidance sets out common long-term performance expectations for all CPPs and community planning partners. Each CPP will adopt its own approach towards meeting these expectations, reflecting local conditions and priorities. Even so, do you think there are common short- or medium-term performance expectations which every CPP and partner should be expected to meet? If so, what are they?

The performance expectations will depend on the social, economic, environmental and /or service issues to be addressed by Community Planning Partnerships. This could result in outputs and outcomes that result short and medium term performance indicators. However it is recognised that many of the issues to be addressed by Partnerships such as tackling inequalities and economic development will need long term solutions. It is considered that short and medium term performance milestones will be required to measure progress on these longer term issues. These performance milestones also need to recognise the additionality of partners working together.

Any common short or medium term performance expectations should be referenced in other Scottish Government guidance for national bodies operating in the local

areas e.g. NHS Local Delivery Plan guidance.

Q3: The 2015 Act requires CPPs to keep under review the question of whether it is making progress in the achievement of each local outcome in their LOIP and locality plan(s). CPPs must from time to time review their LOIP and locality plan(s) under review, and to revise them where appropriate. Even with this, do you think the statutory guidance should require CPPs to review and if necessary revise their plans after a specific period of time in every case? If so, what should that specific period be?

Yes No

Please explain why.

It is considered that a three year cycle would be an appropriate planning timescale to review LOIPs and locality plans. This would give enough time to show change. Also it would allow for time lags in the availability of official statistics that are being used for performance purposes. The statutory guidance would provide a discipline for partners to adhere to, and would enable them to factor this into their business planning processes.

Q4: What should the statutory guidance state as the latest date by which CPPs must publish progress reports on their local outcomes improvement plans and locality plans?

4 months 6 months Other

If other please provide timescale. Please explain why.

A lot of official statistical data is used for performance purposes is available only on an annual basis. For this reason it is considered that annual progress reports should be given at least 6 months to be published but the timescale should be decided by the Community Planning Partnership locally.

Q5. Do you have any other comments about the draft Guidance?

Scottish Government regulations for NHS major service change (Informing, engaging and consulting people in developing health and community care services CEL 4 (2010)) need to be coherent with Community Empowerment Act (CEA) principles and guidance.

Q6. We propose that the draft regulation for locality planning should set one criterion only, which is a maximum population permissible for a locality. Do you agree? What are your reasons?

No, it is considered that Community Planning Partnerships should have the flexibility to decide their own criteria for the definition of locality planning areas including population thresholds. In rural regions such as the Scottish Borders, which has a mixture of small towns and rural communities, this is considered vital because Community Planning Partnerships are in the best position to decide on what is practicable based on experience in their local areas.

Q7: The draft regulation sets a maximum population size for localities subject to locality planning of 30,000 residents. It also proposes an exception which allows a CPP to designate a local authority electoral ward as a locality even where its population exceeds 30,000 residents. Are there circumstances in which these criteria would prevent a CPP from applying a reasonable approach to locality planning? What difference would it make to how localities were identified for the purposes of locality planning in the CPP area(s) in which you have an interest, if the maximum population size were set at (a) 25,000 residents or (b) 20,000 residents?

See answer to question 6. The locality areas to be used will depend on

practicalities such as:

- historical political arrangements,
- their relevance to local communities,
- towns and their relationship to surrounding rural communities, and,
- the resources and capacities in public and local organisations for the management and provision of local services.

This means that relevant localities could vary in population size, including beyond the proposed 30,000 threshold.

Q8: Do you have any other comments about the draft Regulation?

Community Planning Partnerships should have the discretion to decide their own locality areas which means there is no need for a draft Regulation. This is particularly important for rural regions such as the Scottish Borders, with their wide range of communities.

Q9: Are there any equality issues we should be aware of in respect of local outcomes improvement plans and locality plans?

It is important that when local outcome improvement plans and locality plans are being developed that engagement takes place with equality groups.