

# PA Programme Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 10:00 – 12:00

## Chairs updates

- [By My Side](#), a survey on people's experience of getting Independent Support to access social care was launched this week and is open until 1 April 2024. Interim results will be shared at the [SDSS National Voice Conference](#) on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- [The Personal Assistant workforce survey: 2023](#) report has been published.
  - The second survey of this workforce and, for the first time, we have comparative data.
  - The survey will be undertaken biennially (next survey due in early 2025) to avoid survey fatigue among participants and allow time to learn and embed findings between surveys.

## Subgroup updates

- Due to time constraints, the [subgroup updates](#) were shared via email with the board.

## Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation (IRISR):

### Acceptance of recommendations

- The [IRISR Recommendations Report](#) was published on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.
- [The Minister of Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Ms Todd responded](#) on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, accepting all recommendations made by the IRISR report.
- The PAPB had expressed to the Minister particular concern about recommendation 8 around bespoke registration for PAs:
  - *It is recommended that a co-produced and bespoke scheme of registration for Personal Assistants (PAs) which recognises their skills and role, and opens up access to training and development, should be developed. Such a scheme would **expressly** seek not to create barriers, and through co-production, would create positive opportunities for both the Personal Assistant and their employer.*
- In a discussion, the upset and fear of the PA Programme Board members was clear, and concerns were expressed that this may challenge the employer's agency and negatively impact the retention and recruitment of PAs.
- It was proposed that there was a need for a whole system review to ensure choice and control are available in the delivery of SDS. Without looking at the needs of all disabled people we cannot uphold the rights of those who choose to become employers and those who choose not to. Further, registered providers must be effectively supported and financed to offer services in all Scottish communities.
- The PA Policy team will share the strength of feeling of the PAPB with the Minister and the need for further discussion in the next steps of the process.

## The Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 consultation engagement – Jillian Cole

- As part of Disclosure Scotland's work to implement the [Disclosure \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#) by April 2025, they are reviewing our fee waivers, discounting and registration fees.
  - The public consultation will run from 5 March until 28 May 2024.
- The full [consultation paper](#) is available to read and complete online.
- Jillian gave an [overview presentation](#) of the proposals in the consultation and the feedback gathered will be passed to Scottish Ministers. These include:
  - fee discounts for people in receipt of certain benefits.
  - fee discounts for care experienced young people.
  - fee discounts for Qualifying Voluntary Organisations (QVOs).
  - registration fees for organisations who countersign any level of disclosure (Accredited Bodies).
- The group would like further information on:
  - If free PVG checks would continue for Personal Assistants after March 2024?
  - Will a fee discount for people on certain benefits be applied against the employer or employee?

- Would the employer need funds in their DP to cover the cost of the PVG and therefore would LAs be supported to fund this?
- What if young people don't want their employer to know they are care experienced? Will the discount highlight this in some way or not?
- Jillian can be contacted on: [jillian.cole@disclosurescotland.gov.scot](mailto:jillian.cole@disclosurescotland.gov.scot)
- Following the meeting, Jillian [shared further information on regulated work and Qualifying Voluntary Organisations \(QVO's\)](#).

### **Action for PAPB**

- The next meeting of the PA Programme Board (27 June 2024) will be an Open Meeting. SDSS will send out information to PAPB members to share within their networks on how to sign up.
- The PA Policy team will share the strength of feeling of the PAPB about PA registration with the Minister and the need for further discussion in the next steps of the process.