

Briefing on the Scottish Government's Response to the Christie Commission

Background

In November 2010 the government created the Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services, popularly known as the **Christie Commission**. It completed its work and [reported its findings](#) in June of this year. The Christie Commission called for a focus on four key areas: preventative spending, further integration of public services, better workforce development and more transparency and sharing of information.

The **Scottish Government** has largely embraced the recommendations of the Christie Commission which was reflected in the recent [Scottish Spending Review 2011](#). It's 262 pages - [you can read our overview here](#).

One of the main themes of the Government's response to the Commission, and the one most relevant to our members, is a new focus on **preventative spending**. There is also a emphasis on the **third sector** throughout the document, and an expectation of complementarities between third sector and government services.

This briefing gives you an overview of the Scottish Government's response to the Christie Commission, which it categorised in four areas:

[Prevention](#)
[Integrated Local Services](#)
[Workforce and Leadership](#)
[Improving Performance](#)

Prevention

One of the key outcomes of the Christie Commission is a making preventative spending a top priority*. The government is hoping its initiatives in preventative spending will help "address the current squeeze on the Scottish budget, tackle persistent inequalities and ensure the sustainability of our public services in the longer term."

Towards these aims the government is committing £500m of investment (from both new and existing funds) over the three years of the Spending Review. This investment consists of:

- A continuation of the Change Fund for older people's services. The fund currently amounts to £70 million within the NHS budget for 2011-12. This will increase to £80m, £80m and £70m over the subsequent three years.
- An Early Years and Early Intervention Change Fund aimed at using evidence-based interventions. This fund will be provided by NHS Boards and local authorities with the Scottish Government providing £50 million of resource over the lifetime of this Parliament through the Sure Start Fund component of the Scottish Futures Fund.

*The third sector was involved in the Finance Committee's consultation on preventative spending. [You can read our response here](#).

- A Reducing Reoffending Change Fund of £1m per year to expand the coverage of proven interventions. The fund will be held in the Third Sector budget.

The Scottish Government has also introduced the Scottish Futures Fund (SFF) (comprised of the Young Scots Fund, Next Generation Digital Fund, Sure Start Fund, Warm Homes Fund and the Future Transport Fund) which will spend £160 million over the next three years and a further £90 million in 2015-16.

Further to this, there will be a reform of post-16 education in Scotland. The Government has already [published its proposals](#) and we will be [consulting with members](#) to ensure their views are part of the reform process.

Integrated Local Services

The Scottish Government will be looking for improved outcomes, particularly in the areas of crime, health and social care, through the further integration of local services.

- The Government will continue to prioritise Community Planning Partnerships and the Single Outcome Agreements.
- It sees adult health and social care as one of the key areas where integrated services and a better use of resources will be necessary and has highlighted the health Change Fund, worth £80m in 2012-13, as a key investment.
- It calls for “better alignment of employability and skills interventions” between the Government, Jobcentres, Skills Development Scotland, colleges and local authorities and for new approaches to employability funding.

Workforce and Leadership

The Government has singled out effective management and the capability of the public sector workforce as keys to delivering better outcomes.

- Leaders of Community Planning Partnerships are asked to focus on the achievement of shared outcomes and cross-sectoral workforce development.
- It calls for third sector organisations to have access to appropriate skills development opportunities and specifically mentions the Just Enterprise programme.

Improving Performance

The Scottish Government is aiming to increase transparency, improve the value of money from public funds and develop a performance culture.

- It will use Scotland Performs to enhance transparent reporting in the public sector.
- It will create a single Scottish Police Force and single Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- It has committed to a new strategy for digital public services.