Engagement session on planning and prioritisation *Legal Aid Reform*

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Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Purpose of today's session
- Why planning and prioritisation?
- Discussion themes
- Learning from experience and practice
- Reflections and next steps

Purpose of today's session

Long-Term Reform

- Long-term reform aims to support a legal aid system that is more planned, strategic and proactive.
- Planning and prioritisation is one of three areas currently being explored.
- Today's discussion focuses on how evidence and information can support future planning and decision-making.

Important to note

- This session is independent of the Scottish Government consultation process.
- We are seeking stakeholder views to inform SLAB's own work and advice.

Why Planning and Prioritisation?

A more planned approach requires an understanding of:

- Need
- Demand
- Supply
- Outcomes

Key questions

- What should legal aid seek to achieve?
- How should priorities be set?
- What evidence should inform decisions?
- How can the system adapt to changing circumstances?

Today’s discussion

Focus and Scope

We are interested in how evidence and information can support:

- Strategic planning
- Priority setting
- Resource allocation
- Service delivery decisions
- Long-term adaptability

Today's discussion is exploratory

- We are not designing a specific framework or model.
- We are interested in learning from your experience and expertise.

Discussion themes

Understanding Need

- What information is most useful?
- How can unmet need be identified?
- What information is currently missing?
- What approaches have proven effective?

Prioritisation

- What factors should influence priorities?
- What principles should guide decision making?
- What risks or limitations should be considered?

Proactive Planning

- What should a more planned system look like?
- What supports effective planning?
- What challenges should be anticipated?
- Are there examples where long-term planning improved outcomes?

Evidence and decision-making

Evidence may include

- Research and evaluation
- Needs assessments
- Administrative data
- User insight
- Practitioner experience
- Learning from other jurisdictions

Discussion

- How can different sources of evidence be combined to support better planning and prioritisation?

Governance and learnings

Governance

- Who should be involved in setting priorities?
- What role should lived experience play?
- How often should priorities be reviewed?

Learning from elsewhere

We are interested in:

- What approaches have worked well?
- Examples from other jurisdictions
- Approaches used in health, social care and other public services
- Lessons learnt from challenges

Next steps

- Discussion themes will be analysed and reviewed
- A summary of key themes will be published on our website
- Insights will inform ongoing work on long-term legal aid reform
- Future engagement will continue as reform develops.

Thank you

Questions, reflections and final comments

Thank you

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