ABSTRACT
This report informs elected members of the establishment of two new scrutiny bodies which began operating in Scotland on 1 April 2011.

1 RECOMMENDATION
It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee notes the content of this report.

2 BACKGROUND
Since April 2002 Social Work and Health in Angus, along with other local authorities, has had the scrutiny of its social care services and registered facilities undertaken by the Social Work Inspection Agency and the Care Commission under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001.

On 28 April 2010 the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 received Royal Assent leading to the dissolution of SWIA and the Care Commission on 31 March 2011.

The Act's overarching purpose is to help simplify and improve the landscape of Scottish public bodies, to deliver more effective, co-ordinated government that can achieve its core functions better for the benefit of the people of Scotland.

The Act implements wide-ranging reforms to the public bodies' landscape in Scotland. It abolishes a number of bodies which are no longer necessary; provides order-making powers which enable Scottish Ministers to bring forward further proposals to improve public function and remove or reduce burdens. It imposes new duties of openness and transparency on the Scottish Government and public bodies, establishes Creative Scotland as the new single national body for the arts, culture and creative industries, reforms and streamlines the bodies responsible for health, social work and social care scrutiny and puts in place improvements to the arrangements for scrutiny and complaints handling.

3 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SCRUTINY BODIES
On 1 April 2011 Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) came into force taking over the functions of the Care Commission, Social Work Inspection Agency and the child protection functions from HMIE.
At the same time Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) took over the functions of NHS Quality Improvement Scotland and the regulatory functions of the Care Commission in relation to Independent Health Care.

SCSWIS is led by an interim Chief Executive, Ms Jacqui Roberts, who was the Chief Executive of the Care Commission. Ms Roberts recently met with the Chief Social Work Officers across the Tayside area. She emphasised the importance SCSWIS placed on establishing new relationships with the chief officers and of being part of the improvement agenda. SCSWIS will identify 2-3 key areas for prioritisation in their first year. Regular meetings will be held with chief officers to ensure the effective integration of the SCSWIS work programme.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications as a result of this report.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSION

The new scrutiny body (SCSWIS) for social care and social work services faces a number of significant challenges however we are assured that the approach to partnership, built up over the last six years of our relationship with SWIA, will be taken forward in a positive way with open and constructive dialogue at all times.

R PEAT
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

SW&H/RP/EA