



Social Justice and Tackling Poverty

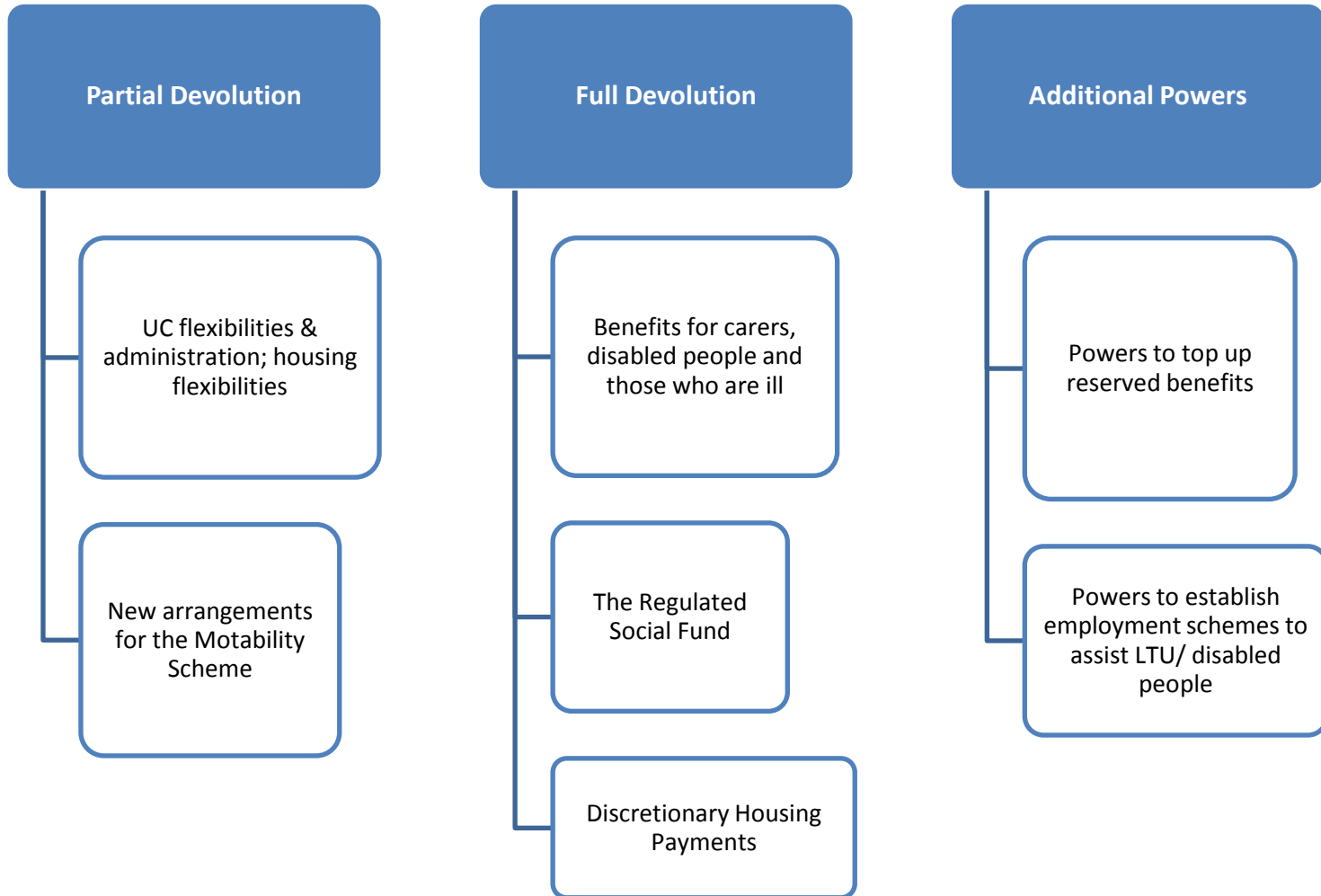
Scottish Government

Rachel McKechnie

Presentation Outline

- New powers
- Welfare Reform mitigation and tackling poverty
- Fairer Scotland Conversation

What is in the Scotland Bill for Welfare and Employment?



Timetable

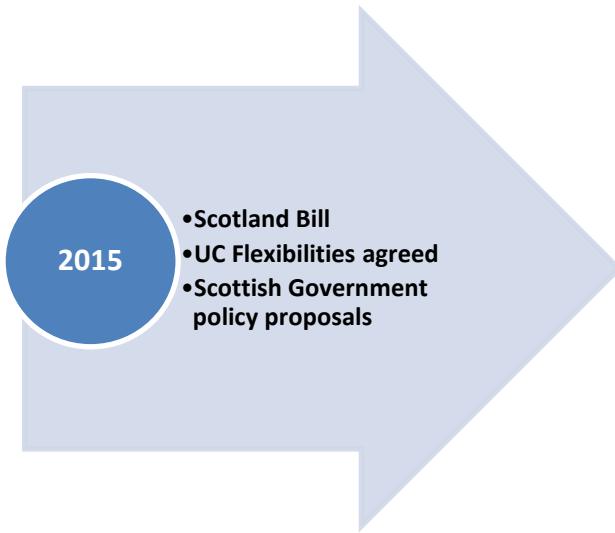
- The timetable for the Scotland Bill is in the hands of the UK Government and the Westminster Parliamentary Authorities.
- Discussed in House of Commons on 30 June.
- It is likely to go to the House of Lords in October / November.
- UK Ministers have said that they are planning to have the Bill through in time for the dissolution of the Scottish Parliament at the end of March.
- Consideration of the Bill will take place in parallel in Scottish Parliament committees before the Parliament is asked to give its legislative consent.

Timetable

UK General Election

Scottish Parliament Elections

Scottish Local Government Elections



- Scotland Bill
- UC Flexibilities agreed
- Scottish Government policy proposals



- New Scotland Act
- Work continues on transition
- Scottish Parliamentary legislation begins



- UC roll out concludes per UKG timetable
- Work continues on transition
- Scottish welfare system emerges

Stakeholder Engagement

- Ensuring a **co-ordinated approach** to engagement opportunities aligning with other key areas such as Social Justice and Employability to ensure consistent messages are delivered.
- **Raising awareness and understanding** of new powers in key target groups
- **Engaging stakeholders** with regular opportunities to feed their views into the process for policy development on new powers
- **Developing our understanding** of the needs and position of our stakeholders.

Scottish National Context

Welfare Reform Impact

- Cumulative impact of Westminster's welfare reforms up to 2015-16 could result in the Scottish welfare bill reduced by **around £6 billion.**

(SG Analysis 7 April 14)

Mitigation

£296 million in the period 2013-14 to 2015-16.

In 2015-16 this included:

- £35m for **Discretionary Housing Payments**
- £23m for the **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**
- £38m for the **Scottish Welfare Fund**
- £8m for **advice, support and anti-poverty projects**

Further developments include:

- LA Support Team
- Emergency Food Fund

Tackling Poverty

The *Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland* - commitment to tackle the long term drivers of poverty through early intervention and prevention.

The 2014 revision (published 10 March 2014) focuses on

- Maximising household resources,
- Improving children's wellbeing and life chances and provision of well designed, sustainable places.
- Includes full measurement framework against which the progress on the key outcomes will be measured.

Committed to building a Fairer Scotland and reducing inequalities however UK Government welfare cuts have a significant and detrimental impact in Scotland and do nothing to tackle child poverty.

Context for a Scottish Approach

- Mitigation can only achieve so much...
- Welfare reform affects those in *and* out of work...and is a factor in the growing numbers of people seeking help
- Recognise the link to tackling inequalities/anti-poverty
- Discussions with partners increasingly focus on:
 - Christie principles.
 - Working in partnership.
 - An emphasis on 'assets'.
 - Co-production

Background to Creating a Fairer Scotland

- Tackling Inequalities one of 3 main priorities in Government.
- Tackling inequality goes hand in hand with building strong sustainable economy
- Different approach.
- The Conversation is an opportunity for us to engage widely, seeking views and thoughts from a range of people who may not normally engage with us or have the chance to do so.
- A better understanding of what matters and to help us truly identify what the gaps are and help develop a shared vision of what a Fairer Scotland might look like in 2030.

Why?

- Scotland is a wealthy country **yet** 1 in 7 people live in poverty.
- We have a high employment rate **but** in-work poverty is increasing with over half of working age adults in poverty now living in households with at least one adult in employment.
- The gap in pay between men and women has fallen considerably **but** women still get paid less than men.
- We are living longer healthier lives **but** those from our most deprived areas live on average 10 years less.
- The number of crimes in Scotland has fallen by almost a quarter since 2008/9 but the risk of being a victim of crime is **still higher** for adults in our most deprived communities

**CREATING
A FAIRER
SCOTLAND
WHAT
MATTERS
TO YOU?**

What?

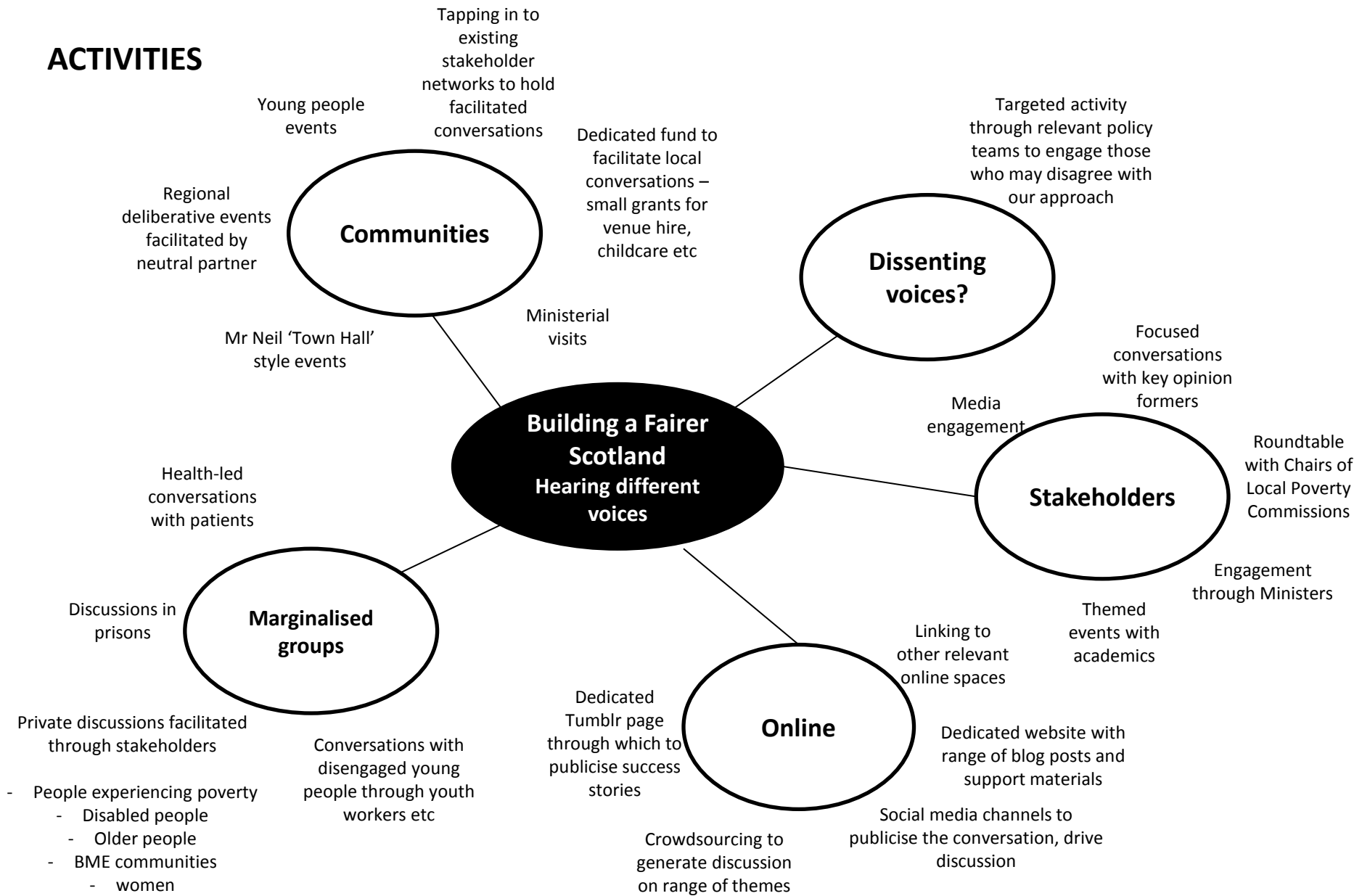
**CREATING
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TO YOU?**

- National discussion
- Broad questions - we will not consult on pre-determined options.
- Long term aspirations
- Not the usual suspects

How?



ACTIVITIES



Phases of work

Phase 1 (June – August): testing the vision and approach; building momentum – Launch, Ministerial and on-line engagement

Phase 2 (September – November): engaging people in the policy-making process through a series of deliberative events, themed digital engagement and community engagement

Phase 3 (December to February): responding to the conversation – Citizen's Assembly and Civic Scotland's response to conversation

Get involved!

- Use your own networks to take forward conversations
- Feedback the outcome to us online or via email
- Visit the blog, read some of the posts, and add comments
- Visit our Twitter and Facebook channels and like, share, comment
- Use the #fairerscotland [hash-tag] in Tweets and on Facebook posts
- Feel free to supply a blog post on a given issue
- Post video clips
- Publicise the conversation
- Let us know about existing good practice

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