Consultation
Did you take part in either of the Scottish Government consultation exercises which preceded the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
1. Yes

Do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
2. Financial assumptions have been included in the FM, although it is not possible to assess the opinion of every Council’s individual comment. Whilst there is recognition that a number of areas within the Bill will lead to the requirement of additional funding, it is not possible to quantify the accuracy of the assumptions on the actual costs of implementation and delivery.

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
3. Yes

Costs
If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that these have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details?
4. We are concerned about the apparent lack of clarity regarding the expected costs of Kinship Care and Family Therapy, particularly in light of the inclusion of “avoided future costs”. There does not appear to be inclusion of costs associated with Kinship Care Orders, National Foster Care Rates or Minimum Qualifications for Foster Carers.

5. In relation to GIRFEC, the document states that all authorities are at different stages in implementation. Accordingly, it is difficult to apply a rationale that provides an accurate outcome of costs. One area that is not considered is the ongoing operational costs, particularly for named persons. If trade unions take a view that the introduction of the named person will have workload implications, there may be further pressure on services sustaining delivery within current job sized remits.

6. Additionally, there is still great uncertainty around the provision of 600 hours, particularly with regard to current Early Years staff and teachers conditions of service. This area of uncertainty will have financial implications that are currently not known.
Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM and projected over 15 years for each service are reasonable and accurate?
7. We are not sure that our concerns as stated at 4 above have been accurately reflected.

If relevant, are you content that your organization can meet the financial costs associated with the Bill which your organization will incur? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?
8. I think it will be exceptionally challenging for our local authority to meet the financial challenges of the Bill unless there is significant support from central Government. This will apply, not to the whole proposal, but to individual component aspects.

Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the estimates and the timescales over which such costs would be expected to arise?
9. See 4 above.

Wider Issues
Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?
10. I do not think the FM can reasonably capture the costs associated with the Bill, due to the uncertainties previously mentioned. In addition, see 4 above.

Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?
11. Yes, I believe there will be future costs associated with the Bill through subordinate legislation. Principally, this will arise, as through ASN experience, from particular groups as they apply their rights to services that have not been legislated for previously.

12. In addition some examples:

Kinship Care Orders: £284,000
National Foster Care Rate: £60,000
Minimum Qualifications for Foster Carers: £40,000