

Integration of Adult Health and Social Care

Introduction

The Scottish Government has published its response to the consultation comments on its proposals to integrate Adult Health & Social Care prior to a bill being published later in the year. The response gives further insights into their plans.

The Government accepts that legislation alone will not achieve their aims but will provide the national leadership to create the conditions to achieve them.

There will be two options of financial integration available: the delegation to a body corporate and the delegation between partners model (the model used in Highland).

Main Proposals in the Response

The response is structured along the following lines:

- **The case for change – whom to legislate for?**

The Bill will legislate to require Health Boards and Local Authorities to integrate health and social care services for all adults. They believe that integration of service planning and delivery is the most effective way to support their aims.

- **Outline of proposed reforms – what to legislate for?**

It is the intention to legislate to require Health Boards and Local Authorities to integrate health and social care services for all adults, and to leave it to local agreement to decide whether to include other areas of service, such as housing or children's services, within the scope of the integrated arrangement.

As they look for the improved outcomes and shift towards community provision previously described, the Government will expect to see evidence of strong partnership working with other relevant areas of service, and evidence that staff are supported to develop the necessary skills for an effectively integrated health and social care environment.

- **National outcomes for adult health and social care**

It is the intention to legislate for the principle that Health and Social Care Partnerships should be held to account for their delivery of nationally agreed outcomes. The outcomes themselves will be agreed with partners in the public sector with input from stakeholders in the third and independent sectors.

- **Governance and accountability**

It is the intention to legislate for committee arrangements that confer voting rights on statutory members of the Health and Social Care Partnership Committee, and to strengthen these arrangements by legislating to require additional membership of the committee covering professional, carer, user and public

KEY POINTS:

- **The Scottish Government has published its response to the consultation on its proposals to integrate Adult Health & Social Care**
- **It proposes to set up statutory Health & Social Care Partnerships in each Local Authority Area.**
- **Community Health Partnerships will be abolished.**
- **A Jointly Accountable Officer will run each HSCP**
- **Joint budgets will be established**
- **Nationally Agreed Outcomes will be set nationally but delivered locally using clinicians, social workers, AHPs, nurses, etc.**



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interests.

They also intend to legislate for the principle that Local Authorities and Health Boards will have parity of voting power on Health and Social Care Partnership Committees.

It is also their intention to legislate on the basis that a Health and Social Care Partnership will be formed between one Local Authority and one Health Board, but to make provision for Ministers to consider applications for more than one Local Authority to form a single Health and Social Care Partnership with the same Health Board.

- **Integrated budgets and resourcing**

It is the intention to legislate so that it is necessary for all local partnerships to reach agreement on integrated arrangements to be implemented locally, subject to the specifications described in legislation. It is the intention to make provision for arrangements to be put in place where there is local failure to agree.

- **Jointly Accountable Officer**

There are no specific proposals relating to the Jointly Accountable Officer. However, they are committed to the principle of integrating budgets to reflect population needs and to joint accountability.

However, the plans will work differently in the two different models of financial integration for which they will legislate:

- In the delegation to a body corporate model a single post of Jointly Accountable Officer will be required.
- In the delegation between partners model, accountability upwards and downwards will be provided via the Chief Executive of the Host partner.

They stress that they have no intention to change the statutory roles of other key roles, such as the Chief Social Work Officer, and insist that they are committed to the Chief Social Work Officer role and to professional leadership in general.

- **Professionally led locality planning and commissioning of services.**

They intend to legislate for a duty on Health and Social Care Partnerships to '**engage with and involve**', rather than merely to '**consult**' local professionals, across extended multi-disciplinary health and social care teams, the third and independent sectors, and for representatives of patients, people who use services, and carers regarding how best to put in place local arrangements for planning service provision.

Next Steps

The next step will be introduction of a Bill to the Scottish Parliament before the summer of 2013.

Action for Branches

- Ascertain which model your employer is leaning towards
- Send information on partnership arrangements to Diane Anderson at the e-mail address given
- Arrange local meetings with partner branches in each area

Further info

Scottish Government Response

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00414332.pdf>

UNISON Briefing

http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/briefings/b024_BargainingBrief_IntegrationofHealthandSocialCare_May2012.pdf

Consultation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/05/6469>

Scottish Government. (2011) *Integration of health and social care*. News release 12 December 2011.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/12/12111418>

UNISON response to the consultation

http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/response/IntegrationofAdultHealthandSocialCare_response_Sep2012.pdf

UNISON comments to Health & Sport Committee

http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/response/Health+SocialCareIntegration_CommentstoSPHealth+SportCommittee_Feb2012.pdf



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