

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	2 February 2022
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Integration Scheme Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ◆ Seek approval of the updated South Lanarkshire Integration Scheme

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Executive Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

- (1) That the updated South Lanarkshire Integration Scheme, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. As part of the requirements of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (thereafter referred to as The Act), councils and NHS Boards are required to review their Integration Scheme at least once every five years.
- 3.2. The purpose of the Integration Scheme is to set out the rules of engagement/workings of Health and Social arrangements; and importantly the functions which the Council and NHS Board choose to delegate to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) from a strategic oversight perspective. The Act stipulates that delegated functions will, as a minimum, cover adult Health and Social Care but can, with agreement of the Parties, include other areas of service.
- 3.3. Following approval through both South Lanarkshire Council's Executive Committee and NHS Lanarkshire Board, the South Lanarkshire Integration Scheme was submitted for approval to the Scottish Parliament in June 2015 and given assent in September 2015.
- 3.4. Although reviews of Integration Schemes were due last year, the Scottish Government, in light of the need to prioritise the response to the COVID pandemic, had asked that councils and NHS Boards, who had not reviewed their Integration Schemes within this window, undertake a very light touch review. The rationale being that where they planned a more wholesale re-look at their Scheme, then this could be done at a point where a degree of normality had returned. Following this, further correspondence was received by the Scottish Government in August 2021 (to IJB Chief Officers and NHS and Local Authority Chief Executives) outlining the requirement to review and revise Integration Schemes. The letter was set within the context of the Public Bodies Act 2014, in that Local Authorities and NHS Boards are required to review their Integration Schemes every five years as a minimum,

ensuring that this process is undertaken with relevant stakeholder engagement/consultation.

3.5. In responding to the first ask by the Scottish Government, South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire undertook a light touch review over the summer of 2020. This review was consulted upon, presented to and approved by the Council's Executive Committee and the NHS Lanarkshire Board in September and October 2020 respectively. It was anticipated that a fuller review of the Integration Scheme would follow in 2021 and, in particular, when the demands of the pandemic had settled and a degree of normalisation had resumed. In responding to the second ask detailed in the Scottish Government letter of August 2021, a commitment had already been made within the papers to the Executive Committee and the NHS Board in 2020 that a fuller review of the Integration Scheme would follow in this year.

3.6. This report sets out the work that has been undertaken recently in response to this.

4. Current Position and Next Steps

4.1. Since the last update on the Integration Scheme to the Council's Executive Committee (September 2020), a number of important strategic imperatives have come about, not least the Independent Review of Adult Social Care (IRASC) and the recent consultation on a National Care Service. These potentially have significant implications for many of the current integration arrangements as set out in the Integration Scheme (as have been previously considered by Council Members through a number of detailed briefings by the Council's Chief Executive).

4.2. Against this backdrop and following discussions between the Corporate Management Teams of the NHS Board and Council, a pragmatic approach has been adopted to reviewing the Integration Scheme given the wider policy context and evolving national picture. Senior officers of both the NHS Board and South Lanarkshire Council committed to a targeted and technical review of the current Scheme to be undertaken and submitted by the year-end. This essentially involved a sense check to see if anything from a terminology perspective had changed since the 2020 review; and undertaking the necessary consultation alongside this to seek the views of stakeholders regarding whether any changes to the scheme were necessary or desirable. This consultation has been embedded as part of the current work to develop the new Strategic Commissioning Plan (SCP) for the South Lanarkshire IJB, given that all stakeholders are involved in this process (which conforms to the National Standards for Community Engagement and Planning with People Guidance). This involved over 27 dedicated sessions/events which included discussions around the current/future priorities and also where improvement could be made to current integration arrangements. Aligning to this, members of the Strategic Commissioning Group (whose membership includes the necessary statutory consultees for this process) were also consulted on the current Integration Scheme to highlight any potential gaps or changes that required consideration by both the NHS Board and Council. All of this activity has informed the review and the revised Integration Scheme set out in appendix 1.

4.3. Consequently this further review has focused on updates as summarised below:

- Changes to terminology to reflect the 'here and now' position
- No material changes have been proposed to delegated functions, and therefore from a financial perspective the IJB budget still remains within the parameters of the original and agreed delegated functions when the Integration Scheme was first approved in 2015

- Where actions/commitments have now been completed, the Integration Scheme has been updated, alongside any target dates

4.4. This work has benefitted from additional oversight provided by the Depute Chair of the IJB (who also had acknowledged specialist expertise from a prior role in local government). They have been supported by the Health & Social Care Partnership's Head of Commissioning and Performance; strategic planning staff of both the NHS Board and the Council; the Chief Finance Officer for the IJB; and the Council's Legal Services Manager. There has also been further input of other senior staff from across both organisations and consultation with members of the Strategic Commissioning Group on the content prior to changes being finalised for consideration.

4.5. In summary, the changes made to the Integration Scheme build upon the previous review undertaken in 2020; and whilst they do not constitute any significant change or deviation from the original version presented in 2015, this should not be confused with the level and breadth of review undertaken. Appendix 1 provides a copy of the proposed Integration Scheme. Once approved, this will be sent to the Scottish Government for sign off.

4.6. Given that both the Council and NHS Board require to approve the Integration Scheme, a similar process and discussion will take place at NHS Lanarkshire's Board meeting on 26 January 2022.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. None, as all current delegated functions remain unchanged from the original Integration Scheme.

7. Climate Change and Sustainability

7.1 There are no climate change or sustainability issues associated with this report

8. Other Implications

8.1. There are no risk implications associated with this report.

8.2. There are no other issues associated with this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Soumen Sengupta
Director, Health and Social Care

20 January 2022

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values/Ambitions

- ◆ Improve later life
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Deliver better health and social care outcomes for all

Previous References

- ◆ Executive Committee 11 February 2015
- ◆ Executive Committee 23 September 2020

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:

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