
SCHEME OF INTEGRATION REVIEW

Report by : Director of Health & Social Care, Scottish Borders Council

Scottish Borders Council

31 March 2022

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes an updated Scheme of Integration in line with the Scottish Borders Council's obligations under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.**
- 1.2 The Scottish Borders Scheme of Integration is a legally binding agreement between NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council. The Scheme of Integration defines the scope of the Integration Joint Board, and Health and Social Care Partnership, along with the supporting arrangements to ensure the integrated planning and delivery of certain Social Care, Social Work and Health Services.
- 1.3 In line with the practice for all Local Authorities and Health Boards, the Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders are legally required to review, revise and publically consult on the Scheme of Integration every 5 years.
- 1.4 Given the current pandemic pressures placed on both social care and health services, and the future national implications of the National Care Service, Local Authorities and Health Boards have been advised by the Scottish Government that a light touch review of their local Scheme of Integration is appropriate. As a result, this approach has been adopted by the Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders.
- 1.5 In undertaking a light touch review, no major changes to the existing Scheme of Integration were identified. Changes within the scheme relate to updating the content to reflect the current context in each area, as opposed to the context in 2017, in order to ensure that it continues to comply with relevant legislation and policies.
- 1.6 The national development of the National Care Service and the associated Community Health and Social Care Boards is currently 'a known unknown.' As a result, at this time no changes were required to be made to the Scheme of Integration as a result of this. Once there is further clarity on the scope and the local implications, an update to the Council will be provided.

- 1.7 A range of stakeholders were contacted to advise them of the launch of the light touch review consultation and how to access it via Scottish Borders Council's consultation and Survey Hub.

Stakeholder groups include:

- Independent Care Sector Providers Strategic Advisory Group
- Public Involvement Group
- Unpaid Carers
- Borders Carers Centre
- Borders Care Voice
- Area Clinical Forum
- IJB Strategic Planning Group
- Integration Joint Board
- Strategic Leadership Team Scottish Borders Council
- Board Executive Team NHS Borders

- 1.8 We received 30 responses from this consultation, with feedback summarised within the report. All feedback will be acted upon, and all respondents will receive feedback.

- 1.9 Changes to the Scheme of Integration are noted in Appendix 3 (Section 4.7.4 was included in the consultation in error as it did not have any amendments made to it) and the revised Scheme of Integration is included within Appendix 4.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the Scottish Borders Council :-

2.1 Notes the process undertaken and findings

2.2 Approves the enclosed reviewed and updated Scottish Borders Scheme of Integration

2.3 Agrees that the updated Scheme of Integration be submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 requires each Health Board and corresponding Local Authority to have an Integration Scheme in place. The 'Scheme' sets out the integration model, the delegated functions, the financial arrangements and budget for the functions. The legislation also requires the Local Authority and Health Board to review the Integration Scheme.
- 3.2 The Scottish Borders Scheme was approved in 2015 and amendments were made in 2017/18 to reflect the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.
- 3.3 Recent Government guidance states that whilst there is no need for Health & Social Care Partnerships to produce a successor Scheme, Health Boards and Local Authorities should ensure that they jointly carry out a review of the existing Scheme and that the review be acknowledged jointly and formally. The guidance stated that even if changes are considered to be minor or 'technical', including changes to tense and tone that these changes must still be consulted on, prior to submission of the revised Scheme to Scottish Ministers for approval (Appendix 1).
- 3.4 The Scottish Borders Integration Scheme has been reviewed. The 'light-touch' review identified no major changes to the existing Scheme of Integration. The changes made relate to updating the existing content to better reflect the current context. The remainder of this paper details the work that has been undertaken and the changes made.

4 SCHEME REVIEW & CONSULTATION

- 4.1 At its September 2021 meeting, the Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board approved the timeline for the review of the Scottish Borders Integration Scheme and agreed that this work be taken forward through the Strategic Planning Group. Scottish ministers expect that the review is completed and returned by 31 March 2022.
- 4.2 The 2014 Act details the consultation requirement for reviewing the Integration Scheme. The views of consultees should be sought on whether changes to the Scheme are necessary or desirable as well as on any proposed changes. Similarly the recent Government guidance stressed the importance of stakeholders being given the opportunity to provide feedback on any issues they wish to raise and not just the proposed changes.
- 4.3 An online consultation on the Scheme was undertaken over a six week period between 18th January - 28th February 2022 (using [Citizenspace](#)).
- 4.4 The consultation responses were collated and a summary report of the responses is included under *Appendix 2*. A summary of the changes made to the Scheme are shown in *Appendix 3*.
- 4.5 In response to the proposed updates made to the Scottish Borders Scheme of Integration, these were generally welcomed and accepted by those who responded. One area of change relating to the Targets and Performance

section received some confliction and comments made would infer that the wording of the refresh to that section were inadequate. All comments and feedback in relation to the review will be addressed and acted upon accordingly.

4.6 Respondents were also invited to comment on the performance of the Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Partnership as noted in *Appendix 2*. Feedback received regarding operational services, ranging from GP practices to Care and Dental Services, have been collated and will be fed back to the services concerned. Communications to respondents regarding feedback received will be made via the appropriate channels and to individuals where contact details were made available as part of the consultation participation.

4.7 The full updated Scottish Borders Integration Scheme is appended in *Appendix 4*.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The 2014 Act requires Health Boards and Local Authorities to carry out a review of Integration Schemes. Failure to do so would breach the legislation.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An integrated impact assessment (IIA) has been completed.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

There is no impact on sustainable development goals.

5.5 Climate Change

There is no impact on climate change.

5.6 Rural Proofing

There are no adverse effects arising from the changes.

5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 In addition to the consultation outlined in section 4, the Scottish Borders Council Strategic Leadership Team has been consulted, with comments incorporated into this document.

6.2 In addition, there has been parallel consultation undertaken within NHS Borders, in accordance with sections 3.1 and 3.3. and in line with the joint responsibility placed on NHS Borders in jointly preparing an integration scheme with Scottish Borders Council under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

Approved by

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