

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Strategic Planning Advisory Group	
Held on	31 August 2021	
Agenda Item:	4	
Title:	National Care Service Consultation	
Summary:		
This report provides the Strategic Planning Advisory Group with an update on the Scottish Government's consultation on the creation of a National Care Service.		
Author:	John Wood, Senior Manager – Planning and Performance	
It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the proposals contained within the consultation document, setting out fundamental reforms to the health and social care system; ii. Provide any commentary on the proposals to inform the South Ayrshire HSCP response (which will be considered by the IJB on 22nd September); iii. Encourage wide stakeholder engagement with the consultation, including responses by the individual organisations represented at SPAG; and iv. Note the update in relation to engagement on the consultation and the role expected of the HSCP. 		
Route to meeting:		
N/A. Consultation published in August 2021. To be considered by IJB on 22nd September.		
Directions:	Implications:	
1. No Directions Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial <input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran <input type="checkbox"/>	HR <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council <input type="checkbox"/>	Legal <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS <input type="checkbox"/>	Equalities <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	ICT <input type="checkbox"/>	

National Care Service Consultation

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides the Strategic Planning Advisory Group with an update on the Scottish Government's consultation on the creation of a National Care Service.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:

- i. Note the proposals contained within the consultation document, setting out fundamental reforms to the health and social care system;**
- ii. Provide any commentary on the proposals to inform the South Ayrshire HSCP response (which will be considered by the IJB on 22nd September);**
- iii. Encourage wide stakeholder engagement with the consultation, including responses by the individual organisations represented at SPAG; and**
- iv. Note the update in relation to engagement on the consultation and the role expected of the HSCP.**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The Scottish Government commissioned an 'Independent Review of Adult Social Care' in September 2020 which was led by the Derek Feeley, supported by an Advisory Panel of Scottish and international experts.

3.2 The principal aim of the review was to recommend improvements to adult social care in Scotland, primarily in terms of the outcomes achieved by and with people who use services, their carers and families, and the experience of people who work in adult social care. The review took a human-rights based approach and was clear in its final report that the scope limited to adult and older people's services.

3.3 The Independent Review concluded at the end of January 2021 and its report (the [Feeley Review](#)), together with an accompanying short film, was published on 3 February 2021.

3.4 Following this, the Scottish Government accepted all of its recommendations and the incumbent government included within their Holyrood election manifesto (2021) a commitment to implementing the Feeley Review in its entirety, with an emphasis on the creation of a National Care Service by the end of the parliamentary term.

3.5 The Scottish Government's consultation document, outlining proposed implementation of the Feeley Review and creation of the National Care Service was [published](#) on 9th August. The proposals detail the scope and role of a National Care Service including other significant policy developments (e.g., revisiting of charging for personal care and residential rates).

4. REPORT

4.1 The consultation published on 9th August sets out proposals for one of the most significant programmes of public service reform seen for some time in Scotland, and arguably the biggest change to social care and social work services since the 1968 Social Work Act.

4.2 Significantly, the consultation proposes:

- The centralisation of social care services under the direction of the National Care Service;
- A shift in accountability for social work and social care from local government / Integration Joint Boards, directly to Scottish Ministers;
- Local planning, commissioning and accountability to take place through reformed IJBs name Community Health and Social Care Boards (CHSCBs);
- The inclusion of all other social care services **including children's services and justice services**;
- Reform of funding for residential nursing care and more comprehensive support for carers including an entitlement to breaks;
- Reforms to some of the national organisations currently involved in the scrutiny, oversight and improvement work within social care; and
- Improvements in practice e.g. around ethical commissioning, Fair Work, driving improvement.

4.3 These reforms are clearly significant and are being closely considered by the HSCP management team and the IJB. It is our intention, along with most other HSCPs, to respond to the consultation as a HSCP and to encourage our officers to engage in other ways (e.g. through national professional networks).

4.4 Given the fairly radical proposals and their impact on the existence and key functions of the IJB, our response requires careful consideration and as part of this we would ask the SPAG to review the consultation and provide input to the IJB's response.

4.5 There is much work to be done within South HSCP's management team and with the IJB to arrive at an appropriately nuanced response which can demonstrate our willingness to engage while also feeding in messages of concern around the proposals. Potential key messages (subject to engagement) would be along the following lines:

- The HSCP is keen to engage positively with this consultation and to offer, where possible, to be involved in early work to implement the aspirations of Feeley (e.g. around fair commissioning).
- The timing of this consultation is of concern, when the health and care system is still under extreme pressure following the pandemic and is likely to experience a very challenging winter.
- Legislation is not necessarily required to implement some of the basic elements of improvement described in the paper.

- The current model is beginning to bed in and the ‘good’ work must not be lost sight of.
- A National Care Service must find a way to be locally accountable and responsive.
- It is not clear why children’s and justice services should be included in the new national organisation, albeit the integration of children’s and justice services locally within South Ayrshire is something that works well and we are committed to.

4.6 The SPAG are invited to comment on these points and offer any further thoughts before a consultation response is drafted. Importantly over the coming years of potential uncertainty, South Ayrshire HSCP’s primary role is to deliver on the objectives within our IJB Strategic Plan and continue to deliver high quality, locally responsive services to our community.

Engagement

4.7 There is an expectation on HSCP’s that we support local engagement on the consultation. In South Ayrshire, we are working to ensure this is on the radar for all local community groups, etc. and we will ensure the consultation is discussed at all our regular engagement forums. We will explore holding bespoke engagement events with some stakeholder groups and, importantly, we will ensure the topic is discussed at each Locality Planning Group and their views will inform our HSCP response.

Next steps

4.8 The SPAG are invited to note the proposed following steps:

- Comments from the SPAG will feed into the HSCP’s consultation response.
- There will be ongoing consideration of the implications by the HSCP management team, including individual teams paying close attention to relevant parts of the consultation.
- An IJB voting member briefing will be held ahead of the IJB meeting to inform the HSCP’s response.
- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders and Locality Planning Groups.
- A set of key principles and some elements of detail of the HSCP response will be agreed by the IJB on 22nd September.
- A full response will be signed off and submitted ahead of the 18th October deadline.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 Consideration of this report and engaging fully in the National Care Service consultation ensures the HSCP are contributing to the Strategic Objectives of the IJB Strategic Plan, particularly:

- We are an ambitious and effective Partnership.
- We are transparent and listen to you.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 There are no financial implications to agreeing this report.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 There are no HR implications to agreeing this report.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no legal implications to agreeing this report.

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken on the strategy.

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 There are no sustainability implications to agreeing this report.

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 The views of professional groups will be taken into close consideration as the strategy is developed.

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 Proposals for consultation and a partnership approach are set out above and will be further developed.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 There is no risk associated with agreeing this report.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

August 2021