

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Integration Joint Board		
Held on	22nd September 2021		
Agenda Item:	Item 11		
Title:	National Care Service Consultation		
Summary:			
<p>This report provides the South Ayrshire Integration Joint Board with an update on the Scottish Government’s consultation on the creation of a National Care Service and seeks endorsement to the HSCP’s proposed approach to engaging with the consultation.</p>			
Author:	John Wood, Senior Manager – Planning and Performance		
It is recommended that the Integration:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the content of the National Care Service consultation and the implications for HSCPs; ii. Provide any commentary on the proposals in order to inform the South Ayrshire HSCP response (a draft of which will be brought to the IJB on 20th October); iii. Endorse the principles outlined at paragraph 4.6 which will guide the South Ayrshire HSCP response; and iv. Agree the proposed next steps. 			
Route to meeting:			
Consultation published in August 2021 and discussion paper taken to SPAG in August.			
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 South Ayrshire Integration Joint Board with an update on the Scottish Government's consultation on the creation of a National Care Service and seeks endorsement to the HSCP's proposed approach to engaging with the consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the IJB:

- i. **Note the content of the National Care Service consultation and the implications for HSCPs;**
- ii. **Provide any commentary on the proposals in order to inform the South Ayrshire HSCP response (a draft of which will be brought to the IJB on 20th October);**
- iii. **Endorse the principles outlined at paragraph 4.6 which will guide the South Ayrshire HSCP response; and**
- iv. **Agree the proposed next steps.**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 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 2021. 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, implementation of Fair Work across Social Care).

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 an organisation and to encourage staff and partner organisations to engage in other ways (e.g. through national professional networks).

4.4 Given the radical nature of the proposals and their impact on the existence of and key functions of the IJB, our response requires careful consideration. As such the HSCP response will draw on engagement across all staff groups, IJB members (voting and non-voting), the SPAG, our Locality Planning Groups and an extensive list of partner organisations.

4.5 There is much work to be done within South HSCP's management team and with the IJB to arrive at an appropriate response which can demonstrate our willingness to engage while also feeding in any messages of concern around the proposals. Our response will also reflect the views of our professional groups in relation to any implications for their practice.

HSCP response

4.6 While the HSCP response will be based on a range of information and views from a variety of perspectives, the IJB is invited to consider the following proposed underlying principles to guide the drafting of our response:

- The HSCP response will be agreed by the Integration Joint Board.
- The HSCP response will clearly avoid any comment on the 'political' discussion relating to these proposals, recognising that the consultation is high on the political agenda, is the subject of ongoing negotiation between COSLA and Scottish Government and will be subject to proper parliamentary scrutiny.
- The HSCP should engage positively with this consultation and to offer, where possible and appropriate, to be involved in any early work to implement the aspirations of Feeley (e.g. around fair commissioning) that do not require legislation to proceed with.
- There are significant positives to be learned from the integration of health and social care in Scotland in its current form. These include improvements made within South Ayrshire and we will reflect these positives in our response.
- South Ayrshire HSCP is close to its community (and works closely with the Council and CPP in this regard) and values its Locality Planning Groups. These constructs and the general principle of localism should not be overlooked in the development of a 'national' service.
- Legislation and national intervention are not required to implement some of the basic elements of system improvement described in the paper. In many of these areas, good work is being progressed locally and nationally and it is important that the national consultation supports and does not delay or interfere with these examples of good practice.
- The timing of this consultation is of concern, given the pressure on the health and care system, and this should be considered by the Scottish Government and others when analysing the response.
- The current model is beginning to bed in and the 'good' work must not be lost sight of.
- Very close consideration must be given to the inclusion of children's and justice services in the new national organisation. The integration of children's and justice services locally within South Ayrshire is something that works well and we are committed to, however the close links with local authority services are vital to success here too. Further detail on the South Ayrshire HSCP position on this will be reflected in the final submission.

4.7 The IJB are invited to agree that these principles be reflected in the draft consultation response to be presented to the Board on 20th October and provide any further key points that should be incorporated.

4.8 Importantly, over the coming years of change and 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.

HSCP approach to engagement

4.9 There is an expectation on HSCPs that we support local engagement on the consultation. In South Ayrshire, we are working to ensure this is on the agenda for all local groups, partner organisations and the community as a whole. HSCP officers are also engaging fully with Locality Planning Groups, supporting them to respond and listening to their views.

4.10 Given the pressures on the system and the amount of detail to be considered in the consultation we will, in line with most other HSCPs, not be coordinating a response that seeks to collate views on behalf of other partners. **We will be holding an engagement event on 5th October for all interested parties to attend – Scottish Government officials will be in attendance.**

Next steps

4.11 The IJB are invited to agree the proposed following steps:

- Comments from the IJB and broader engagement across the HSCP will feed into the HSCP's consultation response;
- HSCP officers will produce a draft submission to be signed off by the IJB on 20th October;
- 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;
- The HSCP will support engagement across a broad range of local stakeholder groups (e.g. Locality Planning Groups);

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

September 2021