

## REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD 01 JUNE 2022

### **CHIEF OFFICER'S UPDATE**

#### **Letter to Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care**

At the IJB meeting on 30 March 2022 a discussion took place which highlighted the challenges around recruitment and retention in social care services. This relates to both Health and Social Care Partnership in house services as well as services commissioned from providers. This is contributing to unmet need in social care (packages of care which are assessed as required but cannot be provided) as well as impacting on care homes' quality of care and sustainability.

The IJB requested that the Chair of the IJB write to the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care, Kevin Stewart, to highlight challenges which are specific to Aberdeenshire. Many of these relate to Aberdeenshire's rurality as well as alternative jobs in our economy. A detailed response has been received and has provided some areas of potential action as well as useful national links on this agenda. A copy of both the letter to the Minister and his response will be circulated to IJB Members for their information.

#### **Equal, expert and valued – Fourth report from the Carer Collaborative of IJB Carer Representatives**

The national Carers Collaborative network has recently published its annual scoping report on the experience of carer representatives on IJBs, available online: <https://www.carersnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Equal-Expert-2022.pdf>

The report describes the progress made across Scotland in relation to the three Best Practice Standards for Carer Engagement as well as setting out recommendations to further enhance engagement with and involvement of carer representatives. The HSCP recognises this as a key priority to understand where we can improve and to ensure we are making progress against the Standards.

In line with this and further to discussion at the meeting of the IJB on 30th March 2022 regarding the introduction of a volunteer stakeholder expenses and replacement care policy, officers have been undertaking further work and engagement to ensure alignment of the Aberdeenshire policy to the Carers Collaborative expenses guidance and template, and to provide clarification in response to the queries raised by members. Subject to agreement by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chief Officer, an update on the policy and revisions agreed will be provided to IJB members at its next meeting.

#### **Annual Performance Report**

Under Section 42 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 all Integration Authorities must produce an annual performance report by no later than 4 months after the end of each reporting year (end of July).

Health and Social Care Partnerships have been advised that the Scottish Government has moved legislation to extend the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 through to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. This means that Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) can extend the date of publication of their Annual Performance Reports to November, using the same



mechanisms as the last two years, as laid out in the Coronavirus Scotland Act (2020), Schedule 6, Part 3.

Work is now commencing on preparation of the Aberdeenshire HSCP Annual Performance Report for 2021-2022 with the intention that this will be brought to the formal meeting of the Integration Joint Board for approval in August.

This will include an updated analysis of results from the Health and Social Care Experience survey for 2021/22 published on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and available online: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-care-experience-survey-2021-22-national-results/>

The survey looks at people's experiences of their GP Practice and out of hours services, care and support provided by their local authority and other organisations, and caring responsibilities and support. The data contribute to nine of the 23 national suite of core integration indicators and provide an important resource and benchmark for HSCPs in understanding and informing areas for improvement in the experiences of people who access health and social care services.

### **Review of Integration Scheme**

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 required all Integration Authorities to agree an "Integration Scheme" setting out the Local Governance arrangements for integration, the services which are formally delegated to the Integration Joint Board and to provide the context and rules in which the Health and Social Care Partnerships can operate. The Integration Scheme for the Aberdeenshire IJB was approved by Scottish Ministers in 2016 at which time the IJB was formally established.

The legislation requires that the Local Authority and Health Board carry out a review of the Integration Scheme before the expiry of 5 years from the date of its approval, in order to identify whether any changes to the Scheme are necessary or desirable. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government issued advice that the minimum requirement of a review was still to be carried out and this should be acknowledged jointly and formally by the Local Authority and the Health Board. This was undertaken and approved by the IJB in September 2020 where it was agreed that no formal changes were required at that time.

The views of consultees must always be sought on whether changes to the Integration Scheme are necessary or desirable as well as on any proposed changes, even if changes are not initially deemed necessary. To ensure adherence to this requirement the HSCP will be implementing a public consultation on the Integration Scheme. Following analysis and where appropriate amendment to the Integration Scheme, proposed changes will be brought back to the IJB for formal approval before the end of 2022.

**Pam Milliken**  
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**Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership**