

REVIEW OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION SCHEME

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council and NHS Highland Board, at their meetings held on 26th and 24th November 2020 respectively, approved revisions made to the Health and Social Care Integration Scheme following review and feedback from the Scottish Government (SG).
- 1.2 The revised Scheme was subsequently submitted to the SG for final approval. This report advises that the SG confirmed via email on 23rd March 2021 that the revised Scheme has now been signed off by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and that arrangements will now be put in place by the two parent bodies to publish the document. A copy of the approved scheme is attached at appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:-

- 2.1 Note that the Integration Scheme has been approved by the SG and that arrangements will now be put in place by the two parent bodies to publish the document.
- 2.2 Note that a similar report is being tabled at the NHS Highland Board and the Integration Joint Board to advise of the position.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The legal requirement to complete a review of an Integration Scheme is set out in Section 44 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act). The Scheme must be reviewed each subsequent period of 5 years beginning with the day on which the Scheme was approved, in the case of Argyll and Bute, 27 June 2015. The statutory responsibility to review the Scheme sits with the Board of NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council.
- 3.2 Following a joint consultation exercise, which ran from 9th December 2019 to 17 January 2020, a number of revisions were made to the Scheme to take account of the feedback received and approved by NHS Highland Board and the Business Continuity Committee at their respective meetings in March and April 2020.

- 3.3 Thereafter, the SG undertook a review of the revised Argyll and Bute Integration Scheme and provided both verbal and written feedback on 7th and 28th October 2020. The Scheme was further updated to take account of the SG comments, and agreed by the NHS Highland Board and Council, at their meetings held on 24th and 26th November 2020 respectively.
- 3.4 The SG confirmed via email on 23rd March 2021 that the revised Scheme has now been signed off by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport. In line with section 8 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, the two parent bodies will now put in place arrangements to publish the approved Scheme. The legislation is not prescriptive in regard to the specific methods that should be adopted in this regard. It is proposed that both parent bodies, and the HSCP, arrange for the document to be published on their respective websites and promoted via Social Media.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Following a period of consultation and review by the SG, the Argyll and Bute Integration Scheme has been approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and Officers will now be published in accordance with the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - In line with Scottish Government Legislation to improve health and social care outcomes for customers
- 5.2 Financial – none arising from this report
- 5.3 Legal - Meets the requirements of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014
- 5.4 HR – none arising from this report
- 5.5 Equalities/Fairer Scotland Duty – none arising from this report
- 5.6 Risk – non-compliance with statutory measures under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014
- 5.7 Customer Services – improved outcomes for customers at core of legislation

6. APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Approved Integration Scheme as at March 2021

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support

Policy Lead – Councillor Kieron Green - Health and Social Care

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For further information, please contact:
Laura Blackwood - Directorate Support Officer
01546 604325