

Colleagues,

Work is currently underway to integrate Health and Social Care in the Scottish Borders. This is part of Scottish Government's legislation-led initiative to have a health and social care partnership for each of the 14 NHS Board Areas in Scotland by April 2016.

What is Integration?

Put simply, it means that over the coming years GPs, hospitals, health workers, social care staff and others will increasingly work side-by-side to share information and take a much more co-ordinated approach to the way services are delivered. The aim of this is to ensure health and social care provision across Scotland is joined-up and seamless, especially for people with long term conditions and disabilities, many of whom are older people.

Why do we have to do this?

Health and Social Care Integration is underpinned by the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 which was granted royal assent on April 1 2014. The Act outlines processes that must be considered and taken forward by Health Boards and Local Authorities in partnership with health and social care professionals, the third sector, users, carers and other key stakeholders.

Which services will it affect?

Services contained within the scope of integration in the Borders are:

- All community health services
- Adult social care services
- Health visiting
- Community dental services
- Sexual health services
- Unscheduled care

What is the 'Scheme of Integration'?

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Health Boards and Local Authorities across Scotland to prepare jointly a 'Scheme of Integration' setting out how this joint working is to be achieved under the new partnership arrangement.

The Act outlines a choice in which we might do this – the health Board and Local Authority can either:

- 1) delegate between each other - also known as the 'lead agency arrangement' or
- 2) both delegate to a third body called the Integration Joint Board - also known as the 'body corporate model'.

Here in the Borders we have chosen a 'body corporate' model which means the Council and the NHS will delegate responsibilities to a health and social care partnership through an Integrated Joint Board to provide joined up adult health and social care and community health services.

The scheme of Integration is currently in draft format and is a legally binding document between NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council (SBC) which needs to be put forward for agreement by Scottish Ministers in March 2015. The Scheme of Integration does not outline how services will be delivered – it is more about the 'behind the scenes' arrangements i.e. delegated functions, clinical and care governance arrangements; financial/workforce management; and operational arrangements.

Further consultation will be undertaken later in 2015 on how services will actually be delivered and commissioned as part of the development of the 'Strategic Commissioning Plan'.

Consultation on Draft Scheme of Integration: 22 December 2014 – 13 March 2015

We are now seeking the views on the draft 'Scheme of Integration' from those individuals or groups who have an interest in the delivery or receipt of healthcare including:

- Health professionals
- Staff
- Service users
- Carers
- Third and independent sector providers
- Providers of social housing
- Recognised representative bodies, representing the interests of specific age, condition or illness groups.

This is the first opportunity for people to formally engage with us on how NHS Borders and SBC will work together to deliver a new health and social care partnership for the Borders. It is vital that people take this opportunity to have their say to make sure we get it right for the future.

What happens after consultation?

Feedback on the draft Scheme of Integration will be taken on board prior to the document being revised and submitted to the Scottish Government in March 2015. Following this, a Strategic Commissioning Plan which outlines how we will deliver and commission services will be developed to be agreed in October 2015.

The timescales of the project are below:

- **22 December 2014 – 13 March 2015** – formal consultation on the draft Scheme of Integration
- **March 2015** – submit final Scheme of Integration to the Scottish Government (after agreement by NHS Board, SBC and Shadow Integration Board)
- **April 2015** - First draft of the Strategic Commissioning Plan presented to NHS Board, Scottish Borders Council and Integrated Joint Board
- **April–June 2015** - Second draft of the Strategic Commissioning Plan developed in engagement with all prescribed stakeholders, nationally, regionally and in localities
- **July–Sept 2015** – Formal consultation on Strategic Commissioning Plan
- **October 2015** – Strategic plan agreed by the Integrated Joint Board.

Give us your views

For further information and to submit your views on the draft Scheme of Integration visit www.scotborders.gov.uk/integration or www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/corporate-information/integration

Alternatively, to request hard copies of the document contact 01896 828294 or email integration@borders.scot.nhs.uk

Information sessions

We will be arranging information sessions in the New Year throughout the Borders. Further information will be issued in due course. In the meantime, if you would like further information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Susan Manion
Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Integration

