



INFORMATION BULLETIN - SOCIAL WORK & HOUSING COMMITTEE

CHANGE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADULT SOCIAL WORK

1 Information Bulletin

1.1 This is an information bulletin for noting.

2 Background

2.1 The Public Bodies Joint Working (Scotland) Act 2014 and associated regulations required Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian to make a significant number of changes to the organisation and governance for health and social care within the Aberdeenshire Area.

2.2 The purpose of this paper is to mark the “hand over” of adult social work services from the Housing and Social Work Committee to the Aberdeenshire Integrated Joint Board. The paper provides, at a very high level, the key changes and illustrates some of the preparation work which has taken place for the new arrangements.

2.3 There are a significant number of detailed papers which are not attached here but which are all available if members would like additional information.

3 Information and Involvement of Members

3.1 Members have agreed to a number of recommendations at Council over the past two and half years. Most notably, the Integration Scheme, which is the legal document between Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian, which sets out all of our local arrangements under the legislation and the setting of the budget contribution from the Council to the IJB were both considered at Council. We have held six seminars, targeted at all members, on the transition arrangements in the past two years. There has been a number of written briefings shared with members in this same time period. Many of the papers, over this same time period, at the Housing and Social Work Committee have mentioned integration and its impact on services. The change to the governance arrangement has been driven by the legislative requirements and issues have been considered by the Transitional Leadership Group (TLG) [explained below] or indeed Council.

4 Arrangements for the Governance of Adult Social Work

4.1 The Governance of all adult social work services will be undertaken by the Aberdeenshire Integrated Joint Board (IJB), who are required to provide an annual report to both Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian which sets out their progress for the previous year. The basis of this report is set out in the Act and a Regulation provides the detailed requirements.

- 4.2 The IJB has ten voting members, comprising five Aberdeenshire Council elected members and five NHS Grampian Health Board members. There are a number of non-voting members. The construction of the Committee is set out in the Act and our local arrangements are described in the Integration Scheme.
- 4.3 The IJB was formed (in law) on the 6 February 2016 and will adopt its powers from the Council and NHS Grampian on 1 April 2016. The IJB held its inaugural meeting on the 16 March 2016 where it accepted a number of things which make it competent for 1 April 2016, for example, appointment of members, standing orders etc. At its inaugural meeting the IJB accepted its Strategic Plan which sets out its intentions and aims for the next three years. This plan had been developed over the preceding 12 months and has involved considerable public and professional involvement.

5 Preparation for the IJB

- 5.1 Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian formed a shadow arrangement for the IJB about two years ago and called this group the Transitional Leadership Group (TLG). The TLG has met some 20 times over this period in preparation for the inception of the IJB. This has comprised both formal meetings, for example, the TLG oversaw the delayed discharge work which made tremendous improvements in this period and considerable development work. The development work was aimed at, firstly, making all members familiar with the business of the IJB, for example, understanding the wide range of services and secondly, setting out the approach that would be adopted by the IJB, for example, development of the IJB risk register.

6 Officer Preparation

- 6.1 The Council has had a formal officer group overseeing the transition, from a Council perspective, for the past 2 years. The Chief Officer established five working groups with membership from the Council and the NHS. There has been a comprehensive 'programme plan' which set out all of the requirements of the legislation for the IJB to be competent on the 1 April 2016. All aspects have been achieved. This programme plan was considered at the TLG meetings.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian have formed an Aberdeenshire Integrated Joint Board to lead the provision of Health and Social Care Services for the population of Aberdeenshire. The IJB is fully competent to assume its duties on the 1 April 2016 and will be fully compliant with the Public Bodies Joint Working (Scotland) Act 2014.

Adam Coldwells
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