

**Meeting:** NHS Grampian Board  
**Meeting date:** 6th April 2023  
**Item Number:** 12  
**Title:** Aberdeenshire Integration Scheme  
**Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:** Pamela Milliken, Chief Officer,  
Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care  
Partnership  
**Report Author:** Lauren Cowie, Principal Solicitor  
Aberdeenshire Council

## 1 Purpose

The Board is asked to endorse the Aberdeenshire Integration Scheme for submission to Scottish Ministers.

**This is presented to the Board for:**

- Decision

**This report relates to a:**

- Legal requirement

**This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambitions:**

- Effective

## 2 Report summary

### 2.1 Situation

Section 2(3) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act (2014) requires each local authority and the Health Board to jointly prepare an Integration Scheme for the area of the local authority. Sections 44(2) and 44(5)(a) require that the local authority and the Health Board must carry out a review of the Integration Scheme within five years. Section 7(1) requires the local authority and the Health Board to jointly submit an Integration Scheme to the Scottish Ministers for approval. The Board is asked to endorse the draft, revised Integration Scheme for Aberdeenshire (Appendix 1) prior to submission to Scottish Ministers.

## **2.2 Background**

The first Integration Scheme for Aberdeenshire was developed in March 2015. It was revised in 2018 mainly to reflect changes in legislation brought about by the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. The Integration Scheme has now been fully reviewed and updated and is included in this report as Appendix 1. The Integration Scheme, which had initially been written before the Integration Joint Board came into being, detailed a vision for how public bodies, Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian, would work together and how it was thought that integration could work. The proposed Integration Scheme, as set out in Appendix 1, has been updated to demonstrate integration in practice alongside the continuing vision and drive for improvement. The timeline for revision of the current Scheme is that it must be completed, approved, and published by the end of April 2023. The Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board considered this report on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, with Aberdeenshire Council considering the Integration Scheme on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Following consideration by the Board, the Integration Scheme will be submitted to Scottish Ministers allowing time for their review and subsequent approval.

## **2.3 Assessment**

Appendix 1 sets out the proposed Integration Scheme side by side with the current approved Integration Scheme for transparency and clarity to show where changes are proposed, along with a reason for the change. Changes are shown in bold blue font. Some of the changes are to remove a repetition of legislative requirements, and some to remove repetition of information now contained within the IJB's Governance Handbook. This ensures that the document is easier to read, more accessible and less legalistic. No changes are being proposed to the appendix to the Integration Scheme which sets out all of the delegated functions so has not been included here for brevity. Many of the proposed changes shift the focus from planning integration, to delivering integration and is a reflection of substantial learning since 2016 and demonstrate a maturing of the IJB's governance arrangements, planning, approach to scrutiny, performance and risk management.

The detail relating to membership had duplicated the legislation and this has been removed. Aberdeenshire IJB's Governance Handbook contains details of the Standing Orders, decision making and roles and responsibilities for key roles such as the Chief Officer, Chief Finance Officer and Standards Officer.

The lifespan of the Integration Scheme is technically to April 2028. However, it is recognised that the implementation of a National Care Service and the change to Care Boards will likely happen prior to this requiring new arrangements to be put in place

### **2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care**

Aberdeenshire's Integration Scheme should have a neutral to positive impact on the quality of care and services. It is the governance from which services are delegated to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) and does not change the way community health and social care services are managed or delivered within Aberdeenshire.

### **2.3.2 Workforce**

Aberdeenshire's Integration Scheme should have a neutral to positive impact on staff resources and health and wellbeing. It is the governance from which services are delegated to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) and does not change the way community health and social care services are managed or delivered within Aberdeenshire. The NHS Scotland Staff governance Standards have been enshrined in the document as well as reference to whistleblowing.

### **2.3.3 Financial**

Whilst Mental Health Inpatient Services and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are delegated operationally and strategically to the IJBs, the transfer of funding to the IJBs for these services has not taken place. The Mental Health Inpatient Services and CAMHS are currently overspending and this is being funded by NHS Grampian. A report will be presented to the IJBs, by the 31 March 2024 on the financing arrangements, once a full review of these budgets has been undertaken. At this point the IJB will be able to determine whether the funding for these services should transfer into the IJB budget.

Aberdeenshire's Integration Scheme should have a neutral to positive impact on capital and revenue finance and efficiencies. It is the governance from which services are delegated to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) and does not change the way community health and social care services are managed or delivered within Aberdeenshire. The existing IJB budget will continue to be managed in the same way as before.

### **2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management**

There is no change to the risk assessment or management of services. Were the draft Integration Scheme not to be endorsed and allowed to progress to the timetable noted at 2.2 above, NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council would risk being in breach of a legislative requirement.

### **2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities**

In relation to the amendments to the Scheme, it is not considered that the changes require a reconsideration of the impacts already identified by an Equality Impact Assessment completed during development of previous Integration Scheme.

### **2.3.6 Other impacts**

No other relevant impacts have been identified.

### **2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation**

The Board has carried out its duties to involve and engage external stakeholders where appropriate, all statutory stakeholders were consulted. The Integration Scheme received positive feedback on its accessibility and focus on outcomes.

### **2.3.8 Route to the Meeting**

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

- Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- Aberdeenshire Council - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## **2.4 Recommendation**

The Board is asked to:

- **Endorsement** – endorse the Aberdeenshire Integration Scheme for submission to Scottish Ministers.

## **3 List of appendices**

The following appendix is included with this report:

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Integration Scheme, side by side comparison