

Integration and Children's Services

Report by: Eibhlin McHugh Director of Health and Care

1 Purpose of Report

This report advises Council on the development of closer partnership working between Council Children's Services, Education and NHS Lothian.

2 Background

2.1 Integration of Health and Social Care

The Public Bodies Act (2014) requires that Councils and Health Boards establish formal integrated arrangements for health and social care. The regulations prescribed a number of functions which must be subject to these new arrangements; from a Council perspective these are essentially all adult care services. The regulations also give some local discretion about additional services which could be included in the integration arrangements. Midlothian Council has agreed that Criminal Justice Services should be included as a delegated function.

2.2 Children's Services

In developing the local arrangements for the integration of health and social care Council agreed on 4/2/14 *to approve, in principle, the possible inclusion of both Children's Services and Criminal Justice Services in the Partnership's remit, at an appropriate time in the future.* The initial proposed timescale for Children's Services moving to become part of the integration structure was April 2016 allowing some time for the new Adult Care arrangements to become established.

In relation to Children's Services the options of integration is complicated by the fact that Education Services cannot be delegated to an Integration Joint Board. In Midlothian a decision to include Children's Services would pose a significant challenge to also sustaining the benefits of the well-established integrated structure of Children's Services and Education.

2.3 Developments

2.3.1 New Legislation: In 2014 the Children and Young People's Act was enacted. This brought additional responsibilities to services for children particularly in relation to delivering the "named person" provision across education and health. In addition, within Education and Children's services particularly the CYP Act has brought significant changes, for example; Children and Young People entitled to stay in Care until age of 21; Provision of a single child's plan; Provision of nursery placements for 2 year olds; further support to Kinship Carers; Provision of Corporate Parenting Support etc.

- 2.3.2 Establishment of IJB:** The complexity of the arrangements for the establishment of Integration Joint Boards, prescribed in regulations has resulted in a delay in full implementation. While the Midlothian IJB has been formally constituted, meeting for the first time on 20th August 2015, it will not assume full delegated responsibility for Health and Care until its Strategic Plan comes into effect in April 2016.

2.4 Future Proposals

- 2.4.1** The proposal to consider the inclusion of Children's Services in the new integrated arrangements for adult care was based upon a judgement that the need for closer working between Children's Services and Health Services was equally important to the arrangements planned in adult care. Whilst the need for strong partnership working remains a priority, given the potential risk of weakening the working relationships between Education and Children's Services it is proposed that alternative approaches to formal integration are pursued. These are as follows:
- 2.4.2** One step will be to seek to develop stronger governance arrangements for all Children's Services across health and council services through the existing GIRFEC Board which reports in to the Community Planning Board.
- 2.4.3** In light of the changes to local and Lothian-wide management arrangements for health services arising from Integration, a review is required to ensure the delivery of Children's Health Services in Midlothian is robustly coordinated.
- 2.4.4** One potential benefit of the inclusion of Children's Services in the IJB remit was the scope to strength joint working between adult and children's social care services. Work will be undertaken to determine how this can be best be achieved outwith formal structural change.
- 2.4.5** One key aspect of joint working between adult and children's services related to services to children with severe and complex needs. It is proposed that that specific work is undertaken to consider the benefits and viability of establishing a lifelong integrated service to ensure a smooth transition to adult services.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising from this report. The intention would be to design new arrangements which are cost neutral.

3.2 Risk

While close working between health, education and children's services is vital there is no simple structural solution available. Education cannot be included in formal Integration arrangements. The current organisation of children's services and education lying within the same Directorate would have to be dissembled and that the progress made over the last five years would be disrupted and weakened through more structural change.

3.3 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

NHS Lothian has been involved and are supportive of the proposals in this report

3.4 Equalities Implications

There are no immediate equalities implications arising from this report. Proposals developed to deliver a whole life service to Children with Complex Needs will be subject to an impact assessment.

3.5 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no implications arising from this report in relation to sustainable development.

4 Recommendations

Council is asked to note and endorse:

1. The proposal not to seek to include Children's Services in the Integration arrangements.
2. The proposal to review and strengthen the governance and strategic planning arrangements for Children's Services.
3. The proposal to strengthen local management arrangements for children's health services.
4. The proposal to strengthen joint arrangements between adult and children's services.
5. The proposal to design a new lifetime service for children and adults with severe and complex needs

Report Contact:

Name Tom Welsh Tel No; 0131 271 3671

Tom.welsh@midlothian.gov.uk