

Health and social care integration

Position statement



Prepared by Audit Scotland

Background

In February 2014, the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 was passed by the Scottish Parliament. It set out the framework for councils and NHS boards to integrate adult health and care services.¹ Audit Scotland will lead on an initial assessment of the progress that is being made in implementing the reforms. In doing so, Audit Scotland will work closely with the Care Inspectorate (CI) and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) to scrutinise this significant programme of reform.

Councils and NHS boards were required to submit their proposed schemes for integration for approval

by Scottish Ministers by 1 April 2015, with the new arrangements to be in place by 1 April 2016. The Act requires councils and NHS boards to establish an integration authority (IA) to plan, resource and oversee the delivery of adult health and social care services in their area. Councils and NHS boards had to set out which of two models they would implement:

- **Lead agency** – councils and NHS boards delegate functions to each other.
- **Body corporate** – councils and NHS boards delegate functions and resources to an Integration Joint Board (IJB).

¹ This includes adult social care services, adult community health services and some adult acute health services. NHS boards and councils may also decide to integrate other services, such as children's services or criminal justice services.

Why is this audit important?

Health and social care integration is a major reform which aims to provide better outcomes for people who need health and social care support by improving joint working and sharing resources. Our audit will establish what progress councils and NHS boards are making towards integrating health and social care services. The implications for health and social care resources are significant – at least £7 billion will be delegated to IAs.

The legislation requires each IA to develop a strategic plan, identify resources, and put arrangements in place to govern and oversee the delivery of services in its area. Our audit will provide an update on progress in meeting these requirements.

What the audit will look at

The overall aim of the audit is to establish if IAs are making good progress in integrating health and social care services, in line with the provisions and requirements set out in the Act and subsequent regulations. Specific audit questions are:

- What progress are councils and NHS boards making in integrating health and social care services?
- Are IAs establishing clear and appropriate governance and financial arrangements?
- What are the challenges and risks to the development of effective integrated health and social care services and what good practice is there in how IAs are addressing these?

How we will carry out the audit

This audit will build on evidence from the local financial audit and from work by the CI and HIS. In addition we will:

- review documents including integration schemes, strategic plans (where available) internal audit reports and local reports on integration arrangements

- analyse council and NHS board information from financial audits
- interview a range of local stakeholders, including IA board members and interim bodies
- liaise with stakeholders in the Scottish Government, the Joint Improvement Team, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and Information Services Division.

What do we want to happen as a result of our audit?


The position statement will set out the resources and services involved in the new arrangements and detail progress and how IAs will operate. We will raise issues for councils and NHS boards to consider as local arrangements mature.

Two further audits on health and social care integration involving Audit Scotland, the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland are planned:


- We will produce a national report after the new arrangements have been fully in place for at least a year.
- Later we will conduct an audit looking at the long-term effects of the new arrangements in terms of achieving a shift towards prevention, progress with integration and improvements to outcomes for local people using health and social care services.

Timetable and contacts

We plan to publish a report in December 2015. Audit Scotland is carrying out the work on behalf of the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission.

For further information please contact Andra Laird at alaird@audit-scotland.gov.uk .



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