

Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland

Briefing: Scottish Government Debate: Health and Social Care Integration

Thursday 19 March, 2pm



Introduction

The ALLIANCE has worked closely with the Scottish Government and MSPs from across the chamber over the past two years to help shape the legislation and policy that underpins health and social care integration. We have advocated for integration to be a driver for substantial cultural change and believe the new Health and Social Care Partnerships will be the engine rooms for driving this.

Key points:

- Integration must be about more than structural change - it must reflect the guidance that sets out **a clear vision for fundamental shifts in culture and radical change** in the landscape of support and services in which we invest.
- **The third sector has a substantial role to play**, particularly in supporting preventative approaches and innovation and catalysing change. The third sector must be a key partner at all stages of integration, including strategic commissioning, service design and delivery.
- Learning from the Reshaping Care for Older People Change Fund suggests Health and Social Care Partnerships need to become better able to shift investment to sustainably support effective, preventative approaches. This is particularly relevant where the 'savings' are generated by changing flow within the acute sector, as these savings are often absorbed by increasing activity rather than released for investment in alternative provision. There is concern at present that **some effective preventative activity is being lost as the Change Fund ends and investment has not been mainstreamed**. This has a very clear impact on the third sector but impacts on preventative activity delivered by all partners.
- **People who use support and services must be full partners in the design, delivery and improvement of health and social care**. It will be important that Health and Social Care Partnerships are held to account for the way in which they work with people and communities as part of locality planning and strategic commissioning.

Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014

The Act sets out a suite of principles, enshrined in law and intended to guide how integration is enacted throughout Scotland. These principles, and the associated guidance¹, paint a

¹ <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0046/00466005.pdf>

picture of health and social care that is **designed and delivered with people and communities**. They require that people are listened to, their lived experience and expertise valued and that they are enabled to have choice and control over their own lives. The principles refer to people's rights and to their human dignity and are clear that health and social care is not simply about sustaining people, but about supporting all of us to participate equally and actively as citizens in our communities.

The principles guidance also reaffirms that health and social care is not the job of statutory services alone. New strategic commissioning processes must interact intelligently with natural networks of support, community activity and third sector provision. In order to make the shift to a preventative approach the guidance suggests the need for 'a radical change in the types of support and services that will be provided' and recognises wider causes of ill health and health inequalities, such as poverty, housing and employment.

As a major contributor to the health and social care landscape in Scotland, the third sector is at the forefront of the provision of quality, service redesign and improvement. We encourage MSPs to scrutinise integration processes, including joint strategic commissioning arrangements, to ensure that the potential of the third sector is realised.

The principles sit alongside the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes, against which Health and Social Care Partnerships will report and be held to account. These reinforce the shift towards health and social care that focuses on the outcomes that matter to people, supports people to self manage, to remain able to live well in their communities and to have positive experiences when they interact with services. The guidance² that accompanies the outcomes offers another significant step with the explicit grounding in a human rights based approach. The ALLIANCE and our members argued strongly for this as a robust philosophical compass for health and social care as well as a practical language and framework to support effective planning, design and delivery.

Implementation

The challenge now is to turn these strong policy guidelines into practice that will make a difference to all our lives, quicken the pace and scale of change and set a new path for health and social care in Scotland. The ALLIANCE's programme of support, including the Health and Social Care Academy³, which seeks to create a safe space for discussion of complex health and social care issues, can help support cultural change and turn integration from policy into practice.

The ALLIANCE welcomes the commitment of many Health and Social Care Partnerships to the production of detailed participation and engagement plans to support people who use support and services and carers to co-produce health and social care services. As noted in the principles guidance, "planning processes need to be accessible and inclusive and reach people whose voices may not normally be heard. Third sector organisations are often well

² <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00470219.pdf>

³ <http://academy.alliance-scotland.org.uk/>

placed to help with this.” We look forward to working with MSPs to **scrutinise how effectively and inclusively people are being involved in the planning process.**

We note from the draft integration schemes that many of the Health and Social Care Partnerships intend to deliver separate complaints processes. Our members express believe that Partnerships must closely consider how they will merge these processes in the future. In approving local integration schemes we believe that the Scottish Government must **make sure that the commitments in the schemes around complaints are person-centred** rather than organisation focused and that they also ensure there is a clear, accessible and standardised approach across Scotland.

Prevention and tackling delayed discharge

Adapting to the preventative agenda is a key challenge for the new Health and Social Care Partnerships being established across Scotland. Their role is vital to the practical embedding of “a preventative and anticipatory approach to the commissioning of services in future”⁴. The nine new National Health and Wellbeing outcomes⁵ and the creation of new joint strategic commissioning arrangements, provide a great opportunity to rethink how best to meet the needs of communities across Scotland and involve people, the third sector and others in finding and implementing the right support and services that can improve outcomes.

The ALLIANCE has published a collection of case studies highlighting just some of the projects across Scotland contributing to the prevention agenda, including preventing delayed discharge⁶. One such example is the Royal Voluntary Service ‘Home from Hospital project’ which provides transport home after a hospital stay and onward six week support service if required. Effectively addressing delayed discharge is essential for improving outcomes and managing costs, and these types of approaches are critical examples of potential solutions and their implementation.

About the ALLIANCE

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is the national third sector intermediary for a range of health and social care organisations. It brings together close to 1,000 members, including a large network of national and local third sector organisations, associates in the statutory and private sectors and individuals. The full list of ALLIANCE projects and programmes is available at: www.alliance-scotland.org.uk.

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⁴ <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00470219.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Policy/Adult-Health-SocialCare-Integration/Outcomes>

⁶ http://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/download/library/lib_5507052a561a2/