



CÙRAM IS SLÀINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR

WESTERN ISLES HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

Integration Scheme

Report by Chief Officer, Health and Social Care

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update members of the IJB on the review of the Integration Scheme.

COMPETENCE

2. There are no HR or financial issues arising from this report. The review of the Integration Scheme is a legal requirement.

SUMMARY

3. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the local authority and Health Board to review the Integration Scheme before the expiry date. The expiry date is five years after the approval date of the current scheme. The Western Isles Scheme was approved on 16th June 2015, meaning the review should have taken place by the 16th June 2020. However, in view of the Coronavirus situation, the Scottish Government has recently advised local partners that they will be able to delay this work, as follows:

As part of the work for establishing local arrangements for integration, the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 required each Health Board and corresponding Local Authority to jointly prepare an Integration Scheme that set out which integration model was to apply, the functions to be delegated, and the financial arrangements and payments for the functions.

The legislation also requires the Local Authority and Health Board to review the Integration Scheme before the expiry date, which is five years after the scheme was approved in parliament. This means that many Integration Schemes are currently due for review.

Given the current work across local health and social care systems to plan their response to Covid -19, and in view of announcements made by the First Minister and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport on the stringent new measures now in force throughout the UK to slow the impact of the virus, please note that we do not expect you to continue work on developing successor schemes.

For absolute clarity, the Act does not require the Health Board and Local Authority to produce a successor scheme, it requires a review. You should therefore ensure that you jointly carry out the minimum requirement of a review, which most of you have already undertaken, and that this is acknowledged jointly and formally. This review can note anything that requires further work between the partners and set out plans for the completion of that work at a later date, once the current very challenging situation passes, including the production of a successor scheme. Meantime, the current Integration Scheme will remain in force.

4. In other words, the Health Board and Comhairle need only carry out a review which they formally acknowledge. This could involve developing a position statement, setting out the future work plan.





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5. Allied to that, and given the need for the aforementioned review, the Chief Executives have opted to seek an interim Chief Officer appointment, ahead of making a permanent appointment when there is more clarity around the content of the successor integration scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board notes the position.

Ron Culley
Chief Officer
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