



SBAR – Review of Integration Scheme

Date: 24th February 2022

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Area: Strategic Integration

<p>Situation</p>	<p>East Lothian Integration Joint Board (IJB) was formed following the preparation of an 'Integration Scheme', drawn up by NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council, to set out the delegated powers and duties of the IJB. The order establishing the IJB becoming operative on 27th May 2015.</p> <p>Section 44 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 requires each NHS board and relevant local authority to jointly carry out a review of each scheme every five years to identify any necessary changes.</p> <p>A planned review of all Integration Schemes in Lothian in 2020 (including the East Lothian Scheme) was delayed by changed service priorities arising from the COVID pandemic. Joint work on the Scheme review between NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council (led by NHS Lothian Strategic Planning Department) began again in mid-2021. This work is nearing conclusion.</p>
<p>Background</p>	<p>The Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act 2014 imposed statutory duties on councils and health boards to integrate specified health and social care services. The vehicle for achieving this was formal delegation through an Integration Scheme of certain statutory duties by each council and health board to an integration authority (Integration Joint Board).</p> <p>The so-established integration authority's responsibilities included preparation of a strategic plan, receipt of budget payments from the council and health board and issuing of directions to the council and health boards to instruct them on their delivery of relevant delegated functions and use of associated resources. The integration authority is required to maintain oversight of the delivery of all its functions and relevant partner functions which are presented in an annual statutory performance report.</p> <p>In July 2015, following its formal establishment, East Lothian IJB took on duties in the East Lothian Council area for development of integrated planning and delivery of health and social care services and criminal justice social work, as well as certain acute hospital services managed by NHS Lothian.</p> <p>Integration Scheme Review</p> <p>Given the legal requirement to review schemes within 5 years of the date they were approved, the joint NHS Lothian/East Lothian Council reviews for all Lothian IJBs should have been completed by spring/summer of 2020. For the reasons noted above, it has not been possible to carry out the Section 44 reviews within that timescale. In May 2020, NHS Lothian Board formally approved a delay to commencement of the reviews for all four IJBs. This was communicated to Scottish Government.</p> <p>Following consideration of the national position by the Scottish Government in May 2021, NHS Lothian and partner local authorities committed to commencing a review in that year.</p> <p>The review process and the partners duty to lead the review and to carry out consultation is set out in the 2014 Act. There is no role for the IJB in this process.</p> <p>The review has three stages:</p> <p>Stage 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation must take place with the persons and groups specified by the Ministers and with others identified by the council and health board • Council and health board must take account of views expressed before proceeding to decide if changes are required.



	<p>Stage 2:</p> <p>If council and health board decide changes are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council and health board prepare a revised Scheme • Council and health board consult again with the same people and groups • Council and health board must take account of views expressed before proceeding to finalise the Scheme. <p>Stage 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council and health board submit the revised Scheme to the Scottish Ministers for approval • Once approved, the amended Scheme is re-published, with the changes taking effect. <p>As the East Lothian scheme text required updating to remove or replace a significant amount of old, out-of-date references to work anticipated (in 2015) to support the initial establishment of business processes etc. for the IJB; in light of the revision to the scheme in 2019 to reflect the Carers Act consequential; and recognising the recasting of the statutory review timetable due to the effect of the pandemic, only stages 2 and 3 of the consultation process are being followed. This approach has been agreed with the Scottish Government policy team.</p> <p>In their consultation on proposed revisions to the scheme, NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council will ask for comments on the existing scheme and proposed revisions to the text in the revised scheme. The consultation is intended to run for 4 weeks maximum, commencing on Tuesday 1st March 2022 and concluding on Thursday 31st March 2022.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>NHS Lothian Strategic Planning colleagues, with East Lothian Council legal department support and input from HSCP officers, are finalising the revised Integration Scheme. The consultation is on target to commence on 1st March 2022. This work is being replicated across the other three Lothian IJB areas, although consultation timetables vary.</p> <p>Although there is no formal role for IJBs in the review of the Integration Scheme, in revising the document or in the consultation process, it is considered reasonable to inform the IJB of progress with the review and to invite individual IJB members to engage with the consultation process, so their views can be considered, alongside those of other consultees in any final Scheme.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>The IJB is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the progress to date in producing a revised Integration Scheme for East Lothian IJB. • Note the intention to bring the revised Scheme to the attention of a comprehensive list of consultees (as set out in the Scheme) as well as publishing it on the East Lothian Council online 'Consultation Hub'¹ for wider comment. • Note the opportunity for individual IJB members to respond to the consultation on the Scheme through the Consultation Hub.
<p>Further Information</p>	<p>¹: https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk</p>