



REPORT TO: MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2020

**SUBJECT: DELEGATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND JUSTICE
SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

BY: INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1. To provide a progress update in relation to the proposed delegation of Children and Families and Justice Social Work to the Moray Integrated Joint Board (MIJB).

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1. It is recommended that the Moray Integration Joint Board:

- i) note the indicative timeline in relation to the proprietary work proposed for the delegation of children and families and justice social work to MIJB;**
- ii) review and note the Programme Board terms of reference; and**
- iii) note further updates will be provided to the Board as the project continues to progress.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The MIJB on 28 May 20 (para 12 of the minute refers) agreed to note the progress made in relation to the proposed delegation of Children and Families and Justice Social Work to MIJB. Members were invited to recall on the decisions made by Moray Council on 27 November 2019 (para 22 of the minute refers) and NHS Grampian on 5 December 2019 (para 11 of the minute refers) where both parties agreed to proceed to the next steps of assessing the potential of delegating the above services to the MIJB.
- 3.2 On 1st July 20 (para 8 of the minute refers) Moray Council (MC) Emergency Cabinet noted the position statement on Children and Families and Justice Social Work, including an overview of the National Context; the Local Context;

The Independent Care Review; the current position in Moray; rationale for transformational change; reconnecting social work; and delegation of services to Moray Integration Joint Board. The MC Emergency Cabinet agreed to note the working being carried out to make improvements to the service and to continue with the programme which will seek agreement at a future date to delegate services to the MIJB.

- 3.2 Due to the current public health situation and resultant changes in priorities, a slight delay was incurred in order to establish a Programme Board. On 6th Nov 20 the Programme Board met for the first time to discuss the process and the timescale for completion of the proprietary work required for any formal outcomes to be made regarding the delegation of services.

4. KEY MATTERS RELEVANT TO RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Programme Board agreed that the purpose of the Board is to lead and provide strategic direction, allowing for formal decision making to be made by each governing body. Terms of reference have been created to aid partnership working which can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The ambition is to aim for a decision to be made and if agreeable for delegation of services to be complete by 1 April 2022. The new arrangements will align with the start of the financial year. However, this may need to remain open to review, given the current public health situation and resultant change in priorities. A copy of the indicative timescale is attached at **Appendix 2**.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)) and Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan “Moray Partners in Care 2019 – 2029”

Moray Council Corporate Plan 2020-23 outlines its ambitions to support children and families and communities

(b) Policy and Legal

The legal resource required to undertake any due diligence for amending the Integration Scheme requires to be established. This will be assisted by a clear identification of all services that are in scope for transferring over to the MIJB

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Part 3) sets out a legal framework for children’s services planning, including its scope and aims.

(c) Financial implications

In preparation for the delegation of additional functions to the MIJB it will be necessary for the MIJB to obtain assurance that financial resources are adequate to allow it to carry out the functions and to assess the risks associated with this. The MIJB Chief Financial Officer will work with both

the Council Section 95 Officer and the Health Board Director of Finance in establishing the required assurance.

(d) Risk Implications and Mitigation

The scale of this work should not be underestimated. This is resource intensive and is likely to require short term investment to ensure success. The allocation of a project officer to manage and report on the modernisation and transformation of children services will enable a full consideration of risks and mitigations, to aid formal decision making.

However, there will be a risk of delay if appropriate staffing resource cannot be allocated for the project management, not underestimating the legal and financial requirements, should delegation proceed.

(e) Staffing Implications

The project will be resourced using existing staff within existing structures. The project will be managed by the Interim Head of Children Services, with project manager/ officer on loan to assist with the project from existing HSCM resources.

To support the benefits realisation of the delegation of services, dedicated project officer will enable full visibility of benefits, risks and issues.

(f) Property

No property issues identified at this point.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the report does not contain any changes to policy or actions which may impact adversely on groups with protected characteristics.

(h) Consultations

Chief Executive (NHS Grampian), Chief Executive (Moray Council), Chief Social Work Officer (Moray Council); Chief Financial Officer MIJB, Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance (Moray Council), Committee Services (Moray Council), Chief Financial Officer (Moray Council), Chief Finance Officer (NHS Grampian) Head of Children and Families and Justice Social Work MIJB (Moray Council) and Corporate Manager have been consulted and their comments incorporated into this report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1. To meet the proposed target of delegating additional services to MIJB, it is anticipated additional resource will be required to manage the project and to ensure necessary due diligence and financial planning has been undertaken to the satisfaction of all three bodies (NHS Grampian; Moray Council and MIJB)**

6.2. The Children and Families Social Work Transformation Project should be welcomed to manage the transformation of the delivery of Children and Families Social Work services, across the operational teams, which will require a new model of commissioning and approach to our Out of Area Placements, using a strengths-based approach.

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Background Papers: With Author

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