



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 2 FEBRUARY 2023

SUBJECT: PROGRESS UPDATE TO THE SCHEME OF INTEGRATION

BY: CHIEF OFFICER, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE MORAY

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To ask the Council to approve the amendments to the Integration Scheme to reflect the decision to delegate Children and Families and Justice Social Work Services to Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB).
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section II (18) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to any new policy matter which does not fall within the terms of reference of any Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- i) **Consider and approve the amendments to the Integration Scheme;**
- ii) **Agree the submission of the Integration Scheme to the Scottish Government for final approval; and**
- iii) **Agree the implementation of the transition of the statutory responsibility of Children's Services from Moray Council to the Moray Integration Joint Board following the final Government approval.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Section 2(3) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act (2014) requires each Local Authority and the Health Board to jointly prepare an Integration Scheme for the area of the local authority. Section 7(1) requires the Local Authority and the Health Board to jointly submit an Integration Scheme to the Scottish Ministers for approval.
- 3.2 On 6 April 2022 the Council agreed to progress with delegation of Children and Families and Justice Social Work Services (para 12 of the minutes refers). NHS

Grampian Board approval was gained on 2 June 2022 (para 9 of the minutes), with MIJB approval on 30 June 2022 (para 9 of the minutes refers).

- 3.3 The functions which are delegated by the Local Authority to the Integration Joint Board are set out in the Scheme of Integration; Part 2 of the Annex 2 within **Appendix 1**. These functions are delegated to the extent that the functions are exercisable in relation to the following service areas:

- Social care services provided to children and families
- Fostering and adoptions services
- Child protection
- Justice services

- 3.4 Changes to the Scheme of Integration have been overseen by Brodies Solicitors and areas of change are highlighted in **Appendix 2** for ease of viewing.

4. KEY MATTERS RELEVANT TO RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Discussions are progressing with Scottish Government (as the statutory approval body) over the formal amendments required to the integration scheme to enable the delegation to legally proceed and to aid ministerial approval.
- 4.2 The timeline for revision of the current scheme aims to complete approvals and publish by March 2023. Approvals will be sought from the MIJB on 26 January 2023, with consideration by NHS Grampian on 2 February 2023. If available, the decision of the MIJB will be made known to this meeting of Moray Council. Thereafter it will be submitted to Scottish Ministers allowing time for their review within the required timescale.

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”**
Effective governance arrangements support the development and delivery of priorities and plans.

- (b) **Policy and Legal**
The MIJB, through its approved Standing Orders for meetings, established under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Act 2014, ensures that affairs are administered in accordance with the law, probity and proper standards. Legal support has been sought from Brodies Solicitors to complete these changes to the Scheme.

- (c) **Financial implications**
In preparation for the delegation of additional function to the MIJB, it will be necessary to closely monitor the financial resources to allow to carry of the function delegated and to assess the risks associated with this.

The MIJB Chief Financial Officer with both Council Section 95 Officer and the Health Board Director of Finance established the arrangement

that financial accountability for the delegated functions remains with the Council until to 31 March 2024.

(d) Risk Implications and Mitigation

To continue at pace and to recognise the benefits of delegating children and families and justice social work services, workforce engagement is essential to a successful transition. Not only for opportunities for efficiencies and professional development across the Social Work workforce, but more importantly the lost opportunity for improved workforce alignment which will offer better outcomes for our most vulnerable children and families.

(e) Staffing Implications

Proposals for change to team structures and lines of responsibility will be documented through change management plans including consultation with relevant parties including our staff and unions if required.

(f) Property

No property issues identified at this point.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

Not required at this point.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

None arising at this point

(i) Consultations

Chief Executive Moray Council, Chief Officer MIJB, Chief Executive NHS Grampian, Interim Chief Financial Officer HSCM, Head Governance Strategy and Performance, Chief Financial Officer, Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer Moray Council and NHS Grampian, Head of Service HSCM (Sean Coady and Tracy Stephen) have been consulted.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Approvals from all three bodies (NHS Grampian, Moray Council and MIJB) have been gained to formally delegate Children and Families and Justice Social Work services to MIJB.

6.2 This paper sets out the position in relation to delegating function to MIJB and the revisions required to the Scheme of Integration

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Background Papers:

Ref: SPMAN-305227695-53
SPMAN-305227695-57
SPMAN-305227695-55