Integration of health and social care

NHS Ayrshire & Arran, along with its partners East, North and South Ayrshire Councils, has reached an important milestone in the path to setting up the new Health and Social Care Partnerships in Ayrshire and Arran.

The Health and Social Care Partnerships will be working more closely together to improve people’s experience of services; and to give them the support they need to live safe, healthy lives in their own communities.

Each partnership has one, integrated budget for delivering services that improve outcomes, and is led by a joint post - Director of Health and Social Care - reporting jointly to the Chief Executive of NHS Ayrshire & Arran and the Chief Executive of the Council.

Following submission of our Integration Schemes and review by Scottish Government, Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport has now signed the Order setting up the three Ayrshire Partnerships.

John Burns, Chief Executive of NHS Ayrshire & Arran explains: “This is the first to be signed in Scotland and means our Partnerships are ready for Parliamentary approval. The process requires the Order to lie in Parliament for 28 days.”

Once this has been completed, the new Partnerships become fully functional through their Integration Joint Boards meeting to approve their Strategic Plans. The Strategic Plans are well advanced and each Integration Joint Board is planning to meet on 2 April to approve them. This means that the new Partnerships will be up and running at the earliest possible date.

Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of East Ayrshire Council and Chair of the Shadow Integration Board said: “I am delighted to see this tangible success from our partnership work across Ayrshire that has included not only the councils and NHS
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Ayrshire & Arran, but also employee representatives, the third sector, patients and carers.

“In East Ayrshire, we see this as an important opportunity to work together to support our children in the early years of life, help address long term health conditions and inequalities and also ensure our older people get the support and care they are entitled to. I look forward to working ever closer with all our communities to improve the physical and mental well being of all our residents.”

Mr Burns adds: “We have worked closely with colleagues in Scottish Government to ensure everything remains on track and they have given us tremendous support. It has been a collective effort by many people working together to help us bring the potential benefits of Integration for the people of Ayrshire and Arran into play as soon as possible.

“Well done to all partners involved in getting us to this stage.”

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