

Reflections from the Strategic Commissioning Improvement Network (SCIN) 2020/21

The main aims of the SCIN are to:

- Develop a shared understanding of legislation relevant to integration bodies.
- Promote consistency in practice, learning from good practice.
- Provide a network of support for managers that work within Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs).

The SCIN has continued to develop over the past year as an active network within which ideas and experiences can be shared between HSCPs. The turnout to scheduled meetings has varied, but the routine passage of key information and the ability of colleagues to engage, provides an excellent platform which is well used.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has inevitably shaped the agenda and will continue to do so in the year ahead. Consultation on the production of annual performance reports and issues such as approaches to commissioning, review of integration schemes, COVID19 prevalence modelling and future need assessment, IJBs as Category 1 responders and the process of directions have also featured among other topics of interest.

Several speakers have joined the SCIN, most notably Derek Feeley, who addressed the SCIN shortly before the release of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care (IRASC). The principles and key recommendations of the IRASC were generally welcomed by SCIN members and will feature again in future SCIN meetings once the new government is elected and policy direction confirmed.

Any action to improve integration, empower IJBs and modernise services tend to gain widespread support from members. There is a growing desire within the SCIN to support the efforts of the Chief Officer Group; to be able to assert more influence nationally on the Health and Social Care Scotland core agenda and to better understand the inter-relationships between the various groups. A more connected, joined up approach is seen as being the next logical step.

Looking forward, the SCIN is set to focus on remobilisation and ongoing COVID impacts and consequences to strategic planning and directions.

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