

## **Out of Hours Review. A perspective from the Chief Officers**

Integration of health and social care has been a long term policy direction and in 2015/16 has been coming into reality across Scotland. By 31st March 2016 all partnerships will have brought together the planning and commissioning of health and social care under a joint arrangement (Body Corporate or Lead Agency). In many partnerships operational delivery will either be integrated or moving towards being integrated.

General Medical Services, including out of hours, are part of the delegated functions for all Bodies Corporate. Therefore out of hours primary care services will be a component of all Partnerships' strategic plans. In some cases operational management of out of hours services will also be delegated to partnerships.

Some of the challenges facing out of hours services (particularly medical recruitment and retention) are largely not possible to address at a single partnership level since they require regional or national action. However some challenges, such as closer working with other services require local action at partnership level.

Proposed Principles:

The primary location of the planning for out of hours GP services should be the IJBs. This should be balanced against the need for consistency within health boards that have multiple partnerships and the need for national solutions to problems that can only be resolved nationally

Out of hours primary care has important connections and opportunities for improvement with out of hours social care and local NHS services. Therefore we believe that the review should recommend greater local integration with social care services and other NHS out of hours services e.g. district nursing and mental health.

There has been an upward spiral and competition of pay rates set locally over the last few years. Payment rates for doctors in out of hours services should be set nationally. Consideration should also be given to the potential for variation locally (within nationally agreed limits) to address capacity in hard to fill areas.

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