

POLICY NOTE

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (VARIATION OF AREAS OF HEALTH BOARDS) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2013

SSI 2013/347

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 2(3) and (4) and 105(7) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978(a)

Policy Objectives

1. The integration of Adult Health and Social Care, provided for in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Bill, requires local authorities and Health Boards to agree integration plans for the area of each local authority. The delivery of integrated services under these plans will not operate properly unless existing discrepancies between the boundaries of local authority areas and the areas of their respective Health Boards are removed. This Order has been made under section 2(3) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 to vary the areas for of which each Health Boards are constituted so that Health Board areas and local authority areas are coterminous.
2. Part 1 of the Order varies the areas for which all Health Boards are constituted so that each includes the whole area of certain specified local authorities. The effect of this is that each local authority area will be served by only one Health Board. The schedule to the Order sets out the modern local government areas which are to be included in each Health Board area.
3. The proposed variation will have a significant impact on the communities of Moodiesburn, Rutherglen and Cambuslang. These communities are currently within the local authority areas of North and South Lanarkshire Council but receive health services from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. The Order requires Lanarkshire Health Board and Greater Glasgow Health Board to enter into a scheme to transfer all property, rights and liabilities in these affected areas to NHS Lanarkshire. The Order also provides for the lists of providers of dental, ophthalmic, pharmaceutical and primary medical services maintained by each health board to be updated to reflect the variation in the Health Board areas. Together these provisions will have the effect of transferring all health services within the affected areas to Lanarkshire Health Board. The proposed variation in all other Health Boards would result in significantly less impact, as no health services will require to be transferred.

Consultation

3. To comply with the requirements of section 2(3) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 a number of relevant stakeholders were consulted directly including all territorial Health Boards and a number of practitioner representatives. Of the 17 groups consulted nine responded to the consultation

4. Of the responses returned four respondents advised that aligning boundaries was beneficial; three respondents said it would have no impact on their areas. Two respondents noted concerns relating to the change in local operational management of service delivery.
5. No respondents expressed a preference for amending the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill to facilitate different governance arrangements within a single partnership area.

Financial Effects

6. The changes caused by the order will result in a change in population of the various health boards. This will have budgetary implications which will be reflected in the NRAC formula outputs which inform Health Board financial allocations.