

SEEC-SESL Health & Social Care Integration Workshop

25 May 2016



Challenges

Why is integrated care such a challenge? And what are the biggest challenges? Responses included:

- Cultural differences exist between Local Government and the NHS. A cohesive workforce needs to be created overcoming organisational differences to share professional values and aspirations.
- A common understanding of what integration means is needed.
- A clear governance system is needed if integration is to work.
- Overcoming a top heavy bureaucracy system, integration needs to happen from the bottom up.
- Working under different budgets means there is no incentive to make savings; costs are shunted from one budget to another.
- Demands on services are rising for both health and social care.
- There is no evidence on the evaluation of the impacts of integration and whether it will give a return on investment.
- The split between local and central Government has implications on what local areas can achieve.
- Understanding what Health and Wellbeing boards do? What do they measure? And how do they categorise success?
- Huge variations exist in the IT systems used by different organisations. Information sharing is slow to happen, and there is little cross co-ordination between organisations.
- A lack of funding for technology and innovation.
- The reduction in Government grants is making service provision more difficult.
- What area is going to be covered by pooling budgets? As CCGs and local authorities cover different geographical areas.
- A lack of support from the NHS to make integration happen.
- The outcome from the EU referendum will have implications for both the NHS and local authorities on service provision.
- Integration will only work if a skilled workforce is available.
- Devolution will result in further changes to the health and social care system.