Integration of Health and Social Care

NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Integrated Resource Framework (IRF) in Ayrshire and Arran

1. The IRF programme in Ayrshire has been driven by our Community Health Partnerships (CHPs) given their key role in closer integration of services. The CHPs are coterminous with the three Ayrshire Councils. The IRF has been used in two main ways:

   (1) In the overall mapping of spend across agencies.

   (2) In “deep dives” into resource use in individual services.

2. Our overall mapping work has allowed us to analyse “fair shares” across the CHPs in terms of health spend. We have taken the national Resource Allocation Committee Formula (NRAC) through which NHS Ayrshire and Arran receives the majority of its funding and applied this at CHP level. We have then compared this to actual spend across the CHPs and analysed the variation. Since our baseline goes back to 2007-08 we have been able to track variation over time.

3. To analyse variation across health and local authority resources we have used a calculation of spend per weighted head to identify variation within and between partnerships. We were also interested in variation at GP practice level and mapped the key programmes within the NRAC formula to individual practices and compared this to actual spend. The analysis proved to be of more limited value as there are risks associated with using the formula at such a micro level.

4. At a service level we have used the same methodology to map spend on services for older people. This has been useful in our Change Fund plans and again allows us to track resource movements and shifting the balance of care over time.

5. The CHPs also identified individual service areas for more detailed scrutiny according to their local priorities. These include Complex needs in learning disabilities (East Ayrshire), Complex needs in Children (North Ayrshire), Services for Older People (South Ayrshire) and on a pan Ayrshire basis we have looked at pathways for people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary disease. This allows core teams to look at variation in resource use and link this to attitudes to risk and delivery of outcomes.

6. In supporting the more effective integration of services we have also produced a pan Ayrshire practical guide to resource utilisation. This has been agreed across the agencies and provides guidance on various routes to a shared approach ranging from simple grants through to complex pooled budgets.
7. Finally, we have a rolling programme of in year priorities for the IRF. This is driven by the partners within the CHPs and agreed at a pan Ayrshire level.

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