

Integration Scheme proposed amendment to voting - return from East Dunbartonshire HSCP

East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership has consulted with the members of its Integration Joint Board (IJB) on the proposed amendments to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 to give voting rights to third sector bodies, service users and unpaid carers.

Those members consulted included the six current voting members (3 NHS representative and 3 Local Authority representatives) along with IJB members who represent the third sector (1 member), carers (1 member) and service users (1 member). 5 senior HSCP managers, union representatives from both partner agencies and out Acute Sector representative were also consulted.

IJB members acknowledge that this amendment aims to promote greater consistency across all IJBs, and the inclusion of voting rights for the third sector, carers and services users ensures their voice is heard equally and carries the same weight as other IJB voting members.

All members of East Dunbartonshire's IJB are valued equally, and the service user and carer representatives have voiced their appreciation of the support offered to them as IJB members and acknowledge they are respected and valued in internal and external forums.

The consensus of opinion from East Dunbartonshire IJB members is that we are not in favour of extending the voting rights for the following reasons:

- The level of responsibility on voting members may create a barrier to those wanting to participate.
- The recruitment process that would need to be put in place for third sector, carer and service user members would maybe be perceived as arduous and be off putting to prospective members.
- East Dunbartonshire IJB already listens to, values and acts upon the views and opinions expressed by members of the third sector, carers and service users who are members of the IJB or who participate in the wider activities of the HSCP through our active PSCU group and other governance groups such as our Strategic Planning Oversight Group.
- Not all non-voting members are included in this amendment.

If enacted, support and guidance would be required to be provided to implement the amendment in terms of the recruitment process that would be required, changes to standing orders etc.