

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

RESOURCES COMMITTEE, 14 JUNE 2006

Report by Director of Social Work

DATA SHARING PARTNERSHIP

Agenda Item	
Report No	

1. SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Members about the new arrangements being established to promote data sharing between agencies and the funding being made available from the Scottish Executive to take this forward.

Finally, the report seeks Member approval to establish a short term, fully funded post of data sharing manager.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Minister for Finance and public Service, Mr Tom McCabe, has made it clear that one of his key priorities is to promote effective and efficient sharing of information between public agencies. Building upon the work of the former E Care programme, he has determined that there should be a data sharing partnership in each of the 14 NHS Board areas. Membership will come from local government, NHS and Police. The Highland partnership will comprise representatives from NHS Highland, the Highland Council, Argyll & Bute Council and Northern Constabulary. It will be convened and chaired by the Chief Executive and, in his absence, the Director of Social Work.

2.2 The aim of each partnership is to deliver electronic data sharing and manage the changes necessary to ensure effective and efficient sharing of information. The two key priorities set by the Scottish Executive for local partnerships are:-

- To complete the roll out of Single Shared Assessment for all adult care groups.
- To implement sharing of information for child protection.

2.3 Both require a successful technical solution, but ultimately success will depend on cultural change and a greater openness and appreciation by all those working with vulnerable people and children of when and what information is important to share.

2.4 The partnership board will agree joint priorities when it meets however for the Council's interest the following are key. The rollout of the electronic single shared assessment in community care. Within children's services, Highland has been selected by the Scottish Executive as a pilot authority for 'Getting It Right For Every Child'. This project aims to use the technology developed as part of E Care for Single Shared Assessment in health and community care to facilitate data sharing within children's services.

2.5 Members will recall the decision to invest in a new management information system within the social work service. That project is now under way and work is ongoing to ensure that there is an effective interface between these developments and that all

business benefits are captured to promote maximum efficiency and information can be shared ..

- 2.6 The Scottish Executive has provided funds to each partnership to employ a data sharing manager. The purpose of this post is to implement a secure, efficient, electronic data sharing environment for professionals within public service agencies in the partnership area. A copy of the proposed job description is **attached**. The postholder is to be employed by one of the partners and it is proposed that within Highland this is the Highland Council, to enable smooth reporting arrangements to the Chair of the partnership board, Mr McCourt, Chief Executive.
- 2.7 This arrangement will also foster the necessary close working relationship with the social work change programme manager.
- 2.8 In order for the Highland Partnership to access the Scottish Executive resources, the partnership must consult Scottish Executive officials on the recruitment and selection of the data sharing manager and produce a forward action plan. The Scottish Executive is concerned to promote effective collaboration across Scotland to facilitate a national framework of governance and an improved communications structure. A national data sharing forum has been established to fulfil this role. The forum will comprise the chairs of all the partnerships, national partners and agencies, including the Information Commissioner's office. There will also be a small steering group of Scottish Executive officials who will keep Ministers apprised of progress. The national forum will meet every six months and partnerships will be expected to report on their progress towards key deliverables at these meetings.
- 2.9 In summary, this report describes new arrangements which will promote effective collaboration across Scotland to deliver key strategic goals in relation to the development and delivery of the electronics to secure the effective sharing of key information. These developments will promote the efficiency of public services and secure more effective protection of vulnerable children.

Whilst technology may be a key building block, organisational development will be at the heart of securing the change. Strong leadership, effective partnership and team working, and shared learning will all be central to the effective introduction of new ways of working.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, endorse the approach being taken to develop the Highland partnership, and approve the establishment of a temporary post of data sharing manager to meet the Scottish Executive requirements.

Signature

Designation

Director of Social Work

Date

Background Papers:

Author/Reference

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL – CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S OFFICE
JOB SPECIFICATION**

JOB TITLE	Local Data Sharing Manager	
GRADE		
SERVICE	Chief Executive	
SECTION		
LOCATION	Inverness	
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Chair of Data Sharing Partnership, Chief Executive	
RESPONSIBLE FOR:		
JOB PURPOSE:	To implement and secure an efficient data sharing environment for professionals involved in delivery of services to the public within Highland Partnership area.	
PRINCIPAL CONTACTS	Chief Officers in Partnership area and representatives on the Partnership Board. Director of Social Work and Social Work Change Programme Manager/ Project Manager, Scottish Executive	
MAIN DUTIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Planning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop detailed implementation plan for Partnership area including national and local targets; ○ Report on progress against plan to Data Sharing Partnership. ○ Management of local risk • <i>Organisational Development & Change Management</i> – Support partnership agencies, at all levels, in implementing the plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ stakeholder engagement; ○ communication strategy; ○ development of appropriate training; ○ consent framework. • <i>Technical</i> – locally implement the national technical solution implements the plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ use of the eCare framework and other national products to share information between local partner agencies as required; ○ ensure that local multi agency store (MAS) and other eCare frameworks and products are implemented in a way that allow them to contribute to the national infrastructure. ○ support and advise partner agencies’ in house IT functions in this implementation (with support from the Scottish Executive if required) ○ support and advise partner agencies’ private sector IT vendors in this implementation (with support from the Scottish Executive if required) ○ develop and maintain business continuity plans for all Data Sharing and Standards partnership assets • <i>Standards</i> – conform with national data standards, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ meet the MAS data requirements ○ conform with other national information standards e.g. Assessment Review Co-ordinating Group (ARCG) minimum standards. 	

National Activities:

- to participate in all aspects of the development of the national Data Sharing and Standards framework and products. Including:
 - technical
 - consent
 - organisational development
 - quality assurance and accreditation

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