Timeline: Health and social care integration Wales

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Over the last decade the Welsh Government has published a range of strategy documents, introduced frameworks and legislation for health and social care integration. This timeline sets out the main Government publications on integration.

May 2005  Designed for Life: A strategy that encapsulate the government’s approach. It emphasised the importance of partnerships across the NHS, public health, local government and voluntary organisations. The strategy proposed increased integration at all levels of care and the introduction of managed clinical networks.

March 2007  Chronic conditions management: A model and framework that aimed to integrate CCM into one system by having multidisciplinary teams; jointly planned and commission health and social care services; and, regional clustering of services.

October 2009  The NHS in Wales reconfigured. The structural changes aimed to improve partnership working between health and social care as well as better integration within healthcare. The new structure focused on the patient, local planning and transparency.  Our healthy future: A strategic framework for public health in Wales. It included an ambition for organisations and individuals to work together to improve and protect the health of the population.

October 2009

March 2010  Setting the direction, primary and community service: A strategic delivery programme aimed to use integration to meet the need of the community. It proposed achieving this through localities/GP cluster networks, care coordination and multidisciplinary teams.

February 2011  Sustainable social services for Wales, a framework for action: The paper included the priority action for more integrated services.

November 2011  Together for health: This is the Welsh Government’s five year plan for the NHS. It is based on putting patients at the centre of care, delivering care closer to home within a more integrated network. The vision is updated on an annual basis.

May 2012  Working differently, working together: A framework to support the development of a full integrated healthcare organisation, including planning, financial and services. It aims to develop appropriate staffing models across integrated networks of care.

July 2013  Delivering local healthcare, accelerating the pace of change: The framework committed to develop GP cluster networks so they can shape local services.

March 2014  Delivering integrated health and social care for older people with complex needs framework: The framework focused on the involvement of all partners, including local authorities, health, housing and third sector.

April 2014  Intermediate care fund: Established by the Welsh Government, the fund aimed to enable investment in services to support older people to maintain their independence and remain in their own home. It also aimed to encourage collaborative working between social services, health and housing.  Together for health – a respiratory health delivery plan: Building on the ongoing work for integration, the plan stated the Welsh Government’s continued to encourage integrated respiratory health services.

May 2014  The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014: Designed the organisational architecture to deliver the government’s policy intentions in social care. It also required local authorities to make arrangements with their respective partners, including local health boards and trusts, to promote cooperation.

November 2014  Our plan for primary care services for Wales up to 2018: The plan includes a multidisciplinary workforce and further development of GP cluster networks.

January 2015  Primary care funding: Announced to support GP cluster networks and develop the infrastructure that supports them.

April 2015  The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Introduced statutory requirement on local authorities and NHS bodies to enter formal partnership arrangements, including pooled budgets.

February 2016  NHS core principles: Jointly developed to ensure the NHS delivers. The principles include putting the patients first, working in partnership and as a team.

March 2016  NHS Wales Workforce Review: Set up to consider how new models of service delivery, such as integration, will affect ways of working. BMA Cymru Wales has responded to the consultation and the final report is expected in 2016.