



A – Z Introductory Guide to Health and Social Care

(Extended) Local Partnership Agreements (LPAs and ELPAs)

Brief description

Local Partnership Agreements (LPAs) and Extended Local Partnership Agreements (ELPAs) are formal agreements between partner NHS boards and local authorities on the ways in which they are working together to deliver improved benefits to individuals and their carers through community health and social care services.

The National Picture - Background to the issue

Successive governments have shared a wish to see better joint working between social work, health and housing both in strategic planning and the assessment of individual need and service delivery. The Scottish Executive has increased the pace of change since the publication of “*A Joint Future – Report of the Joint Future Group*” in December 2000.

The Scottish Parliament cleared legislative barriers to integrated funding and management through the Community Care and Health Act 2002, and a subsequent Circular (CCD7/2001) required each Local Authority and Health Board to reach agreement on six key action steps, including joint management, joint resourcing, governance and accountability, priorities and targets, and set this out in a Local Partnership Agreement (LPA)

A further Circular set out the need for Extended Local Partnership Agreements (ELPAs) for 2003-04 that extended the scope of Joint Future from older people to all community care groups from April 2004. ELPAs were required to demonstrate progress made against the indicators of the Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework (JPIAF).

[A separate A-Z Guide in this series provides more information on the JPIAF.]

Expectations and Requirements

Scottish Executive Circular (CCD7/2001) required each local authority and NHS board to reach agreement on six key action steps:

- Joint management arrangements;
- The resources (including staff, money, equipment and property) to be brought under joint management arrangements;
- Outline joint development priorities and the associated organisational and people development plans and targets for the next 3–5 years;
- Joint governance and accountability arrangements;
- Joint performance management framework; and
- Local Partnership Agreement (LPA) completed by 1 April 2002.

This last deadline was moved back by the “*Next Steps*” letter of 28 February 2003, issued by the Scottish Executive, CoSLA and NHS Scotland, which said that local partnerships were required to develop Local Partnership Agreements for services for older people from April 2003. Separate LPAs between an NHS board and each local authority were intended to set out how the development of joint resourcing and joint management for older people would work locally.

A further Circular (CCD2/2004) set out the requirements of Extended Local Partnership Agreements (ELPAs) for 2003-04 that extended the scope of Joint Future from older people to all community care groups from April 2004. Within ELPAs, local authorities and NHS boards are required to demonstrate their intentions and their achievements to date in applying Joint Future to all community care groups (older people, physical disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health, and addictions).

Within this context ELPAs were required to show progress made against the 11 indicators of the Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework (JPIAF). It is important to distinguish between LPAs/ELPAs and the JPIAF. The latter is part of a national monitoring process to ensure that joint working is progressing in line with national expectations. LPAs/ELPAs are local documents: the core agreements between local partners that set out their joint arrangements, the outcomes they are seeking to improve, the ways in which they will organize themselves to do this, and the services they will bring together to make it a reality.

Circular CCD2/2004 indicated that the Extended Local Partnership Agreements would form the main vehicle for the Scottish Executive to assess progress on joint working and improvement of outcomes for individuals and their carers, with the JPIAF progressing from a focus on structures and processes to a focus on better outcomes for individuals and their carers.

Joint arrangements set out in the ELPAs must also be included or cross-referenced in CHP Schemes of Establishment, and should also cross-refer to partners’ delayed discharge plans.

Evaluation and application

Initially, local partnerships sent their Local Partnership Agreements along with their JPIAF returns to the Joint Future Unit within the Scottish Executive. The information was collated and reviewed by a consortium consisting of representatives from Audit Scotland, Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA), the Joint Future Unit and other representatives of the Scottish Executive. After this review, Annual Evaluation Statements were completed at local level by local partnerships and formally submitted to the Executive.

Ministers receive a national Annual Statement on the level and effectiveness of joint working and joint services. The information will also form part of any consideration of action under the intervention powers in the Community Care and Health Act 2002. The Executive has worked with CoSLA to develop a framework of support to preface the possible use of these powers.

The Joint Future Implementation and Advisory Group (JFIAG) has been asked to consider what needs to be done to assist local partners generally, in the light of the evaluations. The appointment of the Joint Improvement Team (JIT) is one mechanism that will play a part in assisting local partnerships where necessary.

Implications for Joint Working

The main implication for joint working is the need to realise what Local Partnership Agreements say local partners will achieve in relation to:

- Reduced bureaucracy and duplication and a rationalisation of inter-agency planning and management arrangements;
- Modern and integrated community services focused on natural localities;
- Integrated community and specialist health care through clinical and care networks;
- Organisations to support the necessary changes in service delivery;
- Better outcomes for service users.

How can I find out more?

You can find out more about Local Partnership Agreements and Extended Local Partnership Agreements on the Joint Future website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/JointFuture/Introduction>

For your reference, we've provided a summary of useful information below.

Relevant legislation and statutory guidance

Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002

<http://www.scotland-legislation.hms.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/acts2002/20020005.htm>

Joint Resourcing and Joint Management of Community Care Services September 2001 [CCD7/2001](#)

Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 circular March 2002 [CCD2/2002](#)

Performance Assessment Framework circular November 2002 [HDL\(2002\)78](#)

Implementation of the Provisions on Joint Working in Part 2 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Community Care (Joint Working Etc.) Regulations 2002 circular December 2002 [CCD11/2002](#)

Joint Future Agenda – Next Steps February 2003 Scottish Executive, CoSLA, NHS Scotland
<http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/publications/DC20030228Joint.pdf>

Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework (JPIAF) February 2003
[CCD1/2003](#)

Extended Local Partnership Agreements and the Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework (JPIAF) for 2003-04 February 2004 [CCD2/2004](#)

Performance Assessment Framework 2003-04: Primary Care February 2004
http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/mels/hdl2003_53.pdf

Extended Local Partnership Agreements and the Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework (JPIAF) April 2004
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1095/0001843.pdf>

Local improvement targets for the Joint Future agenda July 2004 [CCD9/2004](#)

Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework (JPIAF) for 2004-05
November 2004 [CCD10/2004](#)

Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002: Ministerial powers of intervention: guidance on ladder of support and intervention November 2004 [CCD12/2004](#)