As financial situations become more challenging, previous debates about integration, collaboration and joint working are likely to become even more fundamental. Partnership and, sometimes, integration have been key themes of health and social care policy since the election of New Labour in 1997, but the broader economic context has added renewed urgency to these debates. As money gets ever tighter, it will be even more important that all parts of the health and social care system work together to make best use of scarce resources, developing an increasingly joint approach to supporting service users and patients with multiple and complex needs. Without this, the evidence suggests that such groups, particularly frail older people, can quickly get admitted to hospital or to permanent care home places. This is often a poor outcome for the person and their family, and is also a poor use of taxpayers’ money. Similar pressures for further integration are also emerging from previous initiatives such as Transforming Community Services, ongoing mergers in acute care, the public health changes and the development of Health and Well-being Boards.

Following the work of the NHS Future Forum, current policy is stressing the importance of integrated care. However, major questions remain as to how best to deliver such care, and about the appropriate balance to be struck between collaboration and competition. At the same time, there is a risk some health and social care communities might look too quickly to formal integration and structural change, without necessarily thinking through in sufficient detail the outcomes they are trying to achieve, the context they’re starting from or the full range of mechanisms available to them. Although many areas have learned the hard way that changing structures often doesn’t deliver the behavioural change or the financial savings expected, rapid integration can still sometimes seem tempting.

Against this background, this one-day seminar explores different approaches to integration – both between health and social care, and within health care. After an initial introduction to key policy debates, frameworks and concepts, the bulk of the day focuses on learning from a series of local case studies, sharing what worked, what didn’t work and how they got to where they are now. This workshop is run in association with the Journal of Integrated Care and builds on policy advice provided to the previous Ministerial Working Group on Health and Social Care Integration, the NHS Future Forum and the social care White Paper team.
Programme

Chair: Jon Glasby, Professor of Health and Social Care and Director, HSMC

9.30  Arrival and coffee

10.00 Welcome and introductions

10.15 Bringing down the Berlin Wall – what works in partnership working?, Jon Glasby, HSMC Director

11.15 Coffee

11.45 The Torbay experience: improving outcomes for Mrs Smith in a ‘liberated’ NHS, Anthony Farnsworth, Chief Executive, Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust

12.30 The Herefordshire experience: integrated commissioning, provision and back office functions, Chris Bull, Former Chief Executive, Herefordshire County Council

1.15 Lunch

2.15 All together now? A national evaluation of joint commissioning, Helen Dickinson, HSMC

3.00 Delivering integrated primary care, Dr Naresh Rati, Executive Lead, Vitality Partnership

3.45 Summary and close

4.00 Departure

The Cost

The non-residential registration fee is £295 with a reduction of 25% for representatives of voluntary sector organisations or for each delegate where an organisation sends three or more delegates to a single seminar (inclusive of all materials and refreshments).

For further details, please contact Emma Pender on 0121 414 7054 or email e.pender@bham.ac.uk. To reserve a place, please complete the booking form and return to Emma Pender, HSMC, Park House, 40 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2RT.

PAYMENT & BOOKING TERMS

Organisations may substitute an alternative participant at any time up to the commencement of the seminar. No charge will be made for cancellations received in writing up to 21 days before the start of the seminar. Later cancellations will be charged the full fee. We reserve the right to cancel an event and to alter the programme, speakers and venue should it be necessary, due to circumstances beyond our control.

We regret that we are unable to accept bookings unless they are accompanied by either a cheque or your organisation’s official purchase order, and we do not accept provisional bookings.

Please return to:
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