

Focusing resources on social care engagement and integration in South Yorkshire

Since it was established, South Yorkshire ICB have employed a dedicated Health and Social Care Integration Programme (HSCI) Lead. The HSCI lead works very closely with Skills for Care and a range of health and social care partners across the region to ensure that the

It is hoped that the Programme will enable providers to feel more able to contact the right people in health services and discharge teams, and to foster a greater sense of shared partnership working. It will be introduced across the whole of South Yorkshire, but with the understanding that each local authority area operates slightly differently and so will require some place-based adaptations.

Dedicate resource to coordinating integration

Following a successful bid for funding to the HSCI Programme from Health Education England, South Yorkshire ICB have recruited a Social Care Placement Expansion Lead. The role is dedicated to expanding social care placements for health students (including Nursing, Paramedics, Speech and Language Therapists and Allied Health Professionals). South Yorkshire ICS have funded a Coordinator role to facilitate health and nursing students to take up placements in social care settings as part of their training. The role will work across health and social care and is hosted by Sheffield City Council. This is perceived as a progressive step across South Yorkshire ICS as it is not an NHS-hosted role. The local authority is able to facilitate links across both health and social care, with a clear ambition to enable organic integrative working.

The role will have a particular focus on supporting adult social care settings to benefit from health student placements. It will help to ensure that social care is embedded as a core element of the focus on integration in education systems. This integrated working led by the ICB aims to promote and encourage younger generations to choose a career in health and social care, and to experience integration in their learning.

Invest in funding which reflects the real-time needs of the workforce

Across South Yorkshire, there has typically been greater engagement with joint training opportunities from health partners than social care. Feedback from providers, largely gathered by the HSCI Lead and Skills for Care, showed that there are barriers to provider engagement in these shared learning opportunities. Often the setting in which the training took place differs greatly from a person's home, being mainly delivered in a health environment – i.e. hospitals, which is not necessarily conducive to real life learning. The use of language also differs greatly between health and social care. For example, the use of the word 'patients' in health settings which does not translate to social care. This is an important consideration in demonstrating that joint care opportunities are relevant for social care partners and not just health focused.

South Yorkshire have now introduced ringfenced funding specifically for adult social care (in 2021/22 and 2022/23). A number of social care representatives are involved in the planning and delivery of the training. They include Learning and Development leads in the local authorities, care provider representatives, the ICB HSCI Lead and Skills for Care. Together they discuss how they want to invest the yearly fund. Last year they introduced health skills training in social care settings, and this year they are establishing the Integrated Workforce Development for Social Care Managers programme and bolstering their focus on dementia support training.

It is a positive step that South Yorkshire ICS have been open and able to adapt their training offer for the workforce to ensure that social care is meaningfully involved and able to access all opportunities.

“There is a wealth of experience in adult social care – which actually employs more people across South Yorkshire than the NHS – so it’s vital that everything we do, from planning stage,

