

North Lanarkshire Integrated Joint Board (IJB) submission of 12 November 2022

When integration commenced in North Lanarkshire, we had children and families Social Work and Justice Social Work delegated to the IJB, but following a review in 2018, both of these moved back to the Local Authority to form the Education and Families directorate. Children's health services remain delegated to the IJB.

The interpretation of the North Lanarkshire IJB submissions in the SPICe briefing prepared for the 16 November meeting, is also therefore incorrect. Where the submission noted that there is concern that the governance landscape could become even more complicated, this wasn't about Children & Families Social Work moving back into the Local Authority, but instead that if it moves into the Care Boards and with no transfer of health staff, it will leave service delivery across three bodies (NHS for children's health services (no transfer of health staff into NCS noted in the Bill), Children and Families Social Work in the NCS and Education in the Local Authority).

We have put a huge amount of time and effort into the current system in North Lanarkshire through structures like our Children's Services Partnership Board and Integrated Children's Services Group that bring together all local partners to ensure we have as integrated an approach as possible to both strategic service planning and delivery. The concerns outlined in the North Lanarkshire IJB submission centred on the potential loss of local accountability and the strength of our current system from bringing key partners together against unified goals and plan.