

Performance Governance Committee Assurance Report to Grampian NHS Board

Purpose of Report

This report summarises the key matters considered by the Committee under the revised governance arrangements approved by the Board.

In line with the revised arrangements, the business of the Committee has been focused on the key matters in relation to performance governance relevant to the Board's response during the period of the COVID-19 remobilisation plan.

This report covers the Committee meeting held on 16 December 2020.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the following key points and assurances from the Committee:

Performance

The members reviewed and scrutinised the performance report which covered the following: COVID outbreak position (with comparison to the first wave) and performance data in relation to unscheduled care and planned elective care. The following key points were noted:

- The members noted the data presented in relation to the current COVID situation. In Grampian the rates of positive cases had been increasing in Aberdeenshire over the last few weeks, with rates also increasing within Aberdeen City. Whilst the overall COVID+ rates were lower than in the west and central Scotland, the recent rates of growth were showing a similar pattern to the first wave when the peak of the COVID impact was several weeks later than in other Board areas. In relation to COVID inpatients the position (as at the date of the meeting) was at 71% of the peak in the initial COVID wave.
- The members noted the position in relation to unscheduled care and that the bed occupancy within Aberdeen Royal Infirmary was close to capacity and that there had been a decrease in the performance against the 4 hour target in December reflecting early winter pressures.
- The members also noted that the TTG position is currently better than planned trajectories at this point but acknowledged that the need to increase capacity to meet COVID and winter unscheduled care admissions may impact on the surgical bed capacity in the coming weeks. Under the Level 4: Contingency Plan the aim would be to protect critical and urgent care and use the ECSATS system to prioritise patients according to clinical priority.

Remobilisation Plan

The Director of Finance presented an overview of the progress being made against the milestones set out in the remobilisation plan submitted to the Scottish Government at the end of July. The Committee acknowledged and commended the significant progress that had been made with the majority of the milestones due at the end of October having been or nearly completed. The members noted that the Board would be preparing an update to the remobilisation plan in January and February covering the period to the end of March 2022.

Finance position at Month 10

The Committee reviewed the finance report at the end of Month 7 (October) and would highlight the following:

- The finance position at the end of Month 7 showed an overspend of £439k (compared to £2.79 million at the same point in 2019/20). October is the fourth month in a row that the core financial performance (excluding COVID costs) had been stable.
- An estimate that in the first seven months of the financial year that we incurred costs of £15.2 million in responding to Covid. Main areas where additional costs had been incurred included - additional temporary staffing (student nurses, junior medical staff, domestics, porters and additional overtime), costs of additional bed capacity (ITU and Medical beds) and spend on IT equipment. Some offsetting savings had also been made from the reduction in elective activity (mainly on medical supplies and drugs) although the total of this offset is now reducing as a number of services restart.
- This total of COVID expenditure is for NHS Grampian services only. It does not include the estimated costs of the three Health & Social Care Partnerships which are in the region of £18.65 million for the first seven months of the year.

In conclusion, the Director of Finance confirmed that financial forecasts would indicate that the Board would meet its financial targets with careful financial management and mitigation of risks and on the assumption that Covid and remobilisation costs would be funded in line with submitted plans. The Director of Finance confirmed that planning for 2021/22 had commenced with the draft Scottish Budget due to be published at the end of January 2021.

Baird and ANCHOR project assurance

The Director of Finance (and Senior Responsible Officer for the project) set out the high level assurance framework through which the Committee and Board would receive assurances on the delivery of the project. The members noted the assurance framework and that regular formal reporting to the Committee would commence in February 2021 and continue throughout the duration of the project.

PAIR infrastructure assurance report

The Director of Finance presented an overview from the PAIR Infrastructure Group. The Committee noted the report and the significant progress that had been maintained throughout the last nine months in relation to key and critical projects. The Committee also noted the ongoing work being taken forward to plan for the medium to long term infrastructure requirements across Grampian and were assured regarding the links between this process and the refresh of the Board's Clinical Strategy.

Matters referred to other Board Committees

There were no matters referred to any other Board Committee.

Rhona Atkinson
Chair, Performance Governance Committee

Attachment: Agenda of Performance Governance Committee meeting of 16 December 2020

**NHS Grampian
Performance Governance Committee
Wednesday 16 December – 2pm
(Microsoft Teams Meeting)**

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 21st October 2020
3. Items for Discussion:
 - 3.1 Performance Summary (COVID, NON COVID)
 - 3.2 Remobilisation Plan - Milestones
 - 3.3 Finance Report
 - 3.4 Baird and ANCHOR project assurance
 - 3.5 PAIR Infrastructure report
 - 3.6 Active Governance
 - 3.7 Non-executive (first wave) action plan
4. Matters to highlight to the Board

* Paper attached
Verbal

Chair: Rhona Atkinson

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