

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

BY SKYPE, 29 SEPTEMBER, 2021

Integration Joint Board Members:

Mrs R Atkinson, (NHS Grampian) (Chair); Councillor A Stirling (Vice Chair); Ms A Anderson (NHS Grampian); Mrs J Duncan (NHS Grampian); Ms R Little (NHS Grampian); Provost W Howatson; Councillor G Reynolds, Councillor A Ross; Councillor D Robertson and Mrs S Webb (NHS Grampian).

Integration Joint Board Non-Voting Members:

Ms F Culbert, Carers' Representative; Mr D Hekelaar, Third Sector Representative; Ms I Kirk, UNISON; Mrs S Kinsey, Third Sector Representative; Mr K Grant, NHS UNISON; Mrs McNicol, Advisor; Ms A Mutch, Public Representative); Mr A Sharp, Chief Finance Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership; Mr C Smith, Chief Finance and Business Officer; Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership; and Ms P Milliken, Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

Officers: Mrs G Fraser, Ms J Howie, Ms A MacLeod and Ms J Wells, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Ms A Johnston, Ms A Roe, Ms J Raine-Mitchell and Ms A McLeod, Aberdeenshire Council; Ms L Finlayson, Ms A McGruther and Ms R Taylor, NHS Grampian.

In attendance:

Dr C Leask, Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership; Mr D Sage, Public Health Scotland.

Apologies: Mr M McKay (NHS UNISON) and Mr M Simpson.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. STATEMENT OF EQUALITIES

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Joint Board **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (2) where an equality impact assessment has been provided, to take its contents into consideration when reaching a decision.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 21 JULY, 2021

There had been circulated, and was **approved** as a correct record, the Minute of Meeting of 21 July, 2021.

4. MINUTE OF MEETING OF AUDIT COMMITTEE OF 31 MARCH 2021

There had been circulated, and was **noted**, the approved Minute of Meeting of the Audit Committee of 31 March, 2021.

5. INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD ACTION LOG

There had been circulated and was **noted** a report by the Chief Officer providing updates on progress with actions which had still to be completed and advising when these were scheduled to be reported to the Joint Board.

6. CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

There had been circulated a report by the Chief Officer providing an update of the ongoing work of the Health and Social Care Partnership, highlighting (a) that there had been a higher prevalence of covid-19 in recent weeks and, although the impact in general was much less serious, due to the excellent vaccination uptake, there continued to be a proportion of individuals requiring hospital admission; (b) services had been impacted by staff isolation and pressure across services was high to ensure all essential services were covered; (c) the Health and Social Care Partnership's Senior Management Team had commenced planning for winter and there were concerns that the normal winter challenges would be compounded by the need to respond to the continued circulation of covid and the higher levels of need being expected; (d) continuing efforts to the development work to establish a new universal Primary Care Link Workers (mental health and wellbeing) Service; and (e) continuing work of the Joint Board and officers to develop a response to the Scottish Government consultation on a National Care Service.

The Joint Board heard from the Chief Officer of the continuing expectation of a higher level of need and the need for additional capacity to be put in place for winter; the awareness of how hard staff were working and the continuing challenges to ensure all essential services were covered; a Scottish Government allocation of £80,000 for Wellbeing support for Aberdeenshire to meet the needs of people working in primary care and social care who were continuing to respond to the pandemic.

There was discussion of staffing capacity, and the numbers of recruits from the recent graduating cohort of nursing students; the messaging being issued to ensure a good uptake of flu and covid boosters and arrangements in place for the delivery of vaccines; the challenges being experienced in developing a staffing model for the Primary Care Link Workers Service and timescales for its progression.

The Joint Board **agreed** to note the terms of the updates provided.

7. FINANCE UPDATE AS AT JULY 2021

There had been circulated a report dated 8 September, 2021 by the Chief Finance Officer, providing an update on the second financial monitoring information for the 2021/22 financial year, and covering the period up to the end of July 2021. The report also provided an update on the projected costs and funding arrangements for dealing with the ongoing impact of the Covid 19 pandemic during 2021/22.

The Joint Board heard from the Chief Finance Officer on the financial position to the end of July 2021, together with a projected forecast for the year as a whole. The year to date position at end of July indicated an underspend of £0.26 million, and it was noted there had been a gradual increase in costs in the last few months due to the remobilisation of services and increased activity. Some savings continued to be made in areas such as travel and training costs. It was noted that the covid-19 pandemic continued to have a significant financial impact on the IJB across many areas, including the continued need for PPE and higher infection control standards, the extension of sustainability payments to social care providers for additional costs and reduced occupancy, extra costs for measures to support delayed discharges, and continued under recoveries on some income sources.

There was discussion of the differentiation between health service and social care budgets; the overspend in community mental health services budget, which was due to challenges in recruiting staff and the cost of locum posts.

The Joint Board, having considered the financial position as detailed in the report and appendices, **agreed:-**

- (1) To note the financial position set out in the report at 6.3 and Appendices 1 and 2;
- (2) to approve the budget adjustments detailed in Appendices 1 and 3;
- (3) to note the position relating to additional funding provided to the IJB by Aberdeenshire Council in Section 7; and
- (4) to note the progress towards achieving the proposed savings in Appendix 5.

The Chair advised the Joint Board that this would be the last meeting at which Mr Sharp was presenting the Finance Update, following the recent appointment of a dedicated Chief Finance and Business Officer. On behalf of the Joint Board, she thanked Mr Sharp for his service and dedication in guiding the IJB through exceptional times and welcomed Mr Chris Smith to the role of Chief Finance and Business Officer.

8. CLINICAL ADULT & SOCIAL WORK GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

There had been circulated a report dated 26 August, 2021 by the Chair of the Clinical and Adult Social Work Governance Committee, updating the Joint Board on the key issues arising from the Committee meeting on 10 June, 2021.

The Joint Board heard from Ms Little, Chair of the Clinical and Adult Social Work Governance Committee, on the recent work undertaken by the Committee.

There was discussion of issues around recent operational issues with Ellon Medical Centre, which had required urgent remedial works, and the wider issue of proposals for Ellon and Banchory medical centres, which were being progressed through the Primary Care Premises Plan.

The Joint Board **agreed:**

- (1) to note the report and assurances from the Committee in relation to governance matters; and
- (2) that the Chief Officer provide an update on the Primary Care Premises Plan with reference to proposals for Ellon and Banchory medical centres, when more information was available.

9. STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP UPDATE AND TRANSFORMATIONAL WORKSTREAMS PERFORMANCE REPORT

There had been circulated a report by the Chief Officer, providing a summary of key items considered at a recent meeting of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), and seeking comments from the Joint Board on the transformational workstream performance reports for Autism Strategy and Out of Area Social Care Placements projects, which were two of the priority transformational workstreams under Phase 1 of the HSCP's Strategic Delivery Plan.

The Joint Board heard from the Mental Health and Learning Disability Manager (Central), on progress with the development of the Autism Strategy and the Out of Area Social Care Placements project. She advised that the Autism Strategy project continued to make good progress, with significant focus being given to the development of an engagement plan to encourage and support stakeholder involvement in co-producing the strategy. In addition, progress against the Out of Area Social Care Placements project continued to be made, with priority areas for focus being the importance of a person-centred approach, including ensuring a multi-disciplinary team structure was in place to support all individuals in such placements.

There was discussion of support for non-native English speakers within the strategies; the transition for individuals moving from child to adult services; the need to ensure a broadening of the scope of performance measures; the need for budgetary considerations to allow for participation in the development of the strategies by carers and to ensure co-production and appropriate representation; noted that proposals were in place for a Participation Officer post; and of the significant progress that had been made in the last year by the SPG.

Thereafter, the Joint Board **agreed:**

- (1) To acknowledge the report from the Strategic Planning Group; and
- (2) To note the significant progress made by the Strategic Planning Group and ongoing progress on the effective co-production by officers.

10. PRIMARY CARE IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

There had been circulated a report dated 1 September, 2021 by the Partnership Manager (Central), providing a six monthly progress report of the six workstreams in the delivery of the Primary Care Improvement Plan (PCIP), which covered (1) Pharmacotherapy; (2) Urgent Care; (3) Link Workers; (4) Community Treatment and Care (CTAC); (5) Vaccinations; and (6) First Contact Physio (FCP).

The Joint Board heard from the Partnership Manager (Central), who gave a brief update on the progress, challenges and mitigations in respect of each of the workstreams, and highlighted challenges which had been identified as key themes across the workstreams in relation to budget, recruitment of workforce and accommodation and how these were being addressed across Aberdeenshire.

There was discussion of the challenges in recruitment which was recognized as a national problem, and a particular issue for Aberdeenshire, given its geographical size; staff learning and development opportunities; and an acknowledgement that the work being undertaken was demonstrating fresh thinking to deliver sustainable services for the future of health services in Aberdeenshire.

Thereafter, the Joint Board **agreed:**

- (1) to acknowledge the progress in delivery of the Primary Care Improvement Plan (PCIP);
- (2) to acknowledge the challenges experienced as part of delivery of the PCIP, particularly within required timescales, funding and recruiting workforce as well as the mitigation planned; and
- (3) to acknowledge the changes to Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in version MOU2 – Appendix 1.

11. INCLUSION OF INTEGRATION JOINT BOARDS AS CATEGORY 1 RESPONDERS UNDER THE CIVIL CONTINGENCIES ACT 2004

There had been circulated a report dated 20 August, 2021 by the Partnership Manager, Strategy and Business, providing the Joint Board with information about the inclusion of IJB's as Category 1 Responders in terms of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and an outline of the requirements involved.

The Joint Board heard from the Partnership Manager, Strategy and Business, that legislation had been passed on 18 March, 2021 by the Scottish Parliament, to include IJBs as Category 1 responders in terms of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. This will ensure that where there is a risk of an emergency which will impact functions delegated to the IJB there will be formal, co-ordinated and appropriate arrangements in place for emergency planning, information sharing and co-operation with other responders and joined up information sharing and advice for the public. She advised that in Aberdeenshire, the Health and Social Care Partnership had always had effective working relationships with resilience partners, particularly NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council and the Chief Officer or Partnership Managers

were already contributing to local resilience planning, ensuring good existing networks.

The Joint Board **agreed:**

- (1) To note the inclusion of IJB's as Category 1 Responders in terms of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (the 2004 Act); the requirements and the arrangements in place and planned to ensure that the IJB meets its requirements under the Act;
- (2) To instruct the Chief Officer, as its Accountable Officer, to carry out on its behalf, all necessary arrangements to discharge the duties on the IJB under the 2004 Act; and
- (3) To instruct the Chief Officer to bring a report, annually, providing assurance on the resilience arrangements in place to discharge the duties on the IJB under the 2004 Act.

12. DIRECT ACCESS COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS RE-TENDER

There had been circulated a report dated 1 September, 2021 by the Mental Health and Learning Disability Manager (North), seeking approval of (1) an updated service specification for direct access community mental health support; and (2) the commencement of a tender process to procure a 3-year service, with the option of a further one-year extension.

The Joint Board heard from the Strategic Development Officer that the current contract had been in operation since 1 January, 2017 and subsists in 1 April, 2022 following three one-year extensions and a review of the service, finalised in March 2020 had recommended that a refreshed service specification be produced and a tendering exercise undertaken. He outlined the current range of services, the proposals following a review of the service, which had been undertaken through extensive engagement with key stakeholders, and outlined the proposed procurement timetable.

There was discussion of the wide range of engagement which had been carried out, during the review period; the proposal to separate the contracts into two lots, to allow for a targeted service approach; and the need to ensure that the information on the service was easily accessible by users.

Thereafter, the Joint Board **agreed:**

- (1) to approve the updated 'Service Specification' for direct access community mental health support; and
- (2) to agree that the Tender process commence to procure a 3-year service, with the option of a further one-year extension.

13. TACKLING POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES – PROGRESS REPORT

There had been circulated a report dated 25 August, 2021 by the Buchan Area Manager which sought to update the Joint Board on progress made covering the work of the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Strategic Partnership Group, including the actions within the Child Poverty Action Plan and the delivery plan supporting the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority 'Reducing Poverty'.

The Area Manager, Buchan, introduced the report and gave an update on the work of the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group, with the approach to tackling poverty focussing on early intervention and prevention; noted that outcomes had been achieved through a partnership approach which included local Citizens Advice Bureau, Aberdeenshire Council's money advice/welfare rights team, through services funded by the Fairer Aberdeenshire Fund, the Food Fund from the Scottish Government and funding through the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities strategic group.

There was discussion of the essential work done by food banks, and the unprecedented rise in uptake since the start of the pandemic; the development of an information leaflet to help identify appropriate sources of support; a proposed review of the information and support framework to ensure that support was being provided where needed; ongoing challenges around fuel poverty; employability initiatives being undertaken with local employers; support for refugees, which was managed through a resettlement team within the Council; and the opportunities to strengthen links between the work of the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities strategic group with appropriate links within the NHS.

Thereafter, the Joint Board **agreed:**

- (1) to acknowledge and support the progress made in reducing Child Poverty and tackling poverty and inequalities;
- (2) to welcome links between the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategic Partnership Group and the IJB, noting opportunities for co-collaboration; and
- (3) to seek regular updates to the IJB in order to promote joint working in this area.

14. OPERATION HOME FIRST – EVALUATION REPORT

There had been circulated a report dated 23 August, 2021 by the Chief Officer, providing information on an evaluation of the Operation Home First Portfolio, which was an initiative introduced during the covid-19 pandemic to maintain people safely at home, to avoid unnecessary hospital attendance or admission, and to support early discharge back home after essential specialist care. Operation Home First had been developed collaboratively by the three North-East Health and Social Care Partnerships and the Acute Sector of NHS Grampian.

The Joint Board heard from Dr Calum Leask, Lead for Research & Evaluation for Operation Home First, who outlined the aims of Operation Home First, and the scope of the evaluation, to understand the impact of each Operation Home First priority, and how they contribute towards achieving its aims; and to develop a high-level performance dashboard of meaningful metrics to monitor, over time to understand the performance of the portfolio. He explained that the report aimed to evidence the

impact of the Operation Home First portfolio, and highlighted some of the key messages from the report.

There was discussion of the importance of the evaluation in order to evaluate the impact of the pathway; concerns regarding the lived experience in relation to the delivery of the service, including funding and availability to deliver this pathway; and questions around the resourcing of the pathway in the future.

After further discussion, the Joint Board **agreed:**

- (1) To note the importance of the evaluation to enable consideration of the impacts of the project;
- (2) To welcome further updates as and when available; and
- (3) In other respects to note the information provided in the report.