

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 COVID-19 and the implementation of the remobilisation plan.

This report covers the Committee meeting held on 16 June 2021.

Recommendation

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

Performance

The members considered two separate reports – (1) a summary of performance against NHS Scotland standards and (2) a Grampian Health System report. The latter report covered the following: COVID response, the latest activity data in relation to unscheduled care and planned care and an update in relation to Test and Protect and the vaccination programme. The following key points were noted:

- The health system report provided a high level summary of the status of both COVID cases and operational services within Grampian. This report is distributed weekly and is reviewed at the System Leadership and Chief Executive Team meetings. Matters of note arising from the discussion were (1) whilst low rates of COVID cases across all three local authority areas in Grampian were being reported there are signs of an increase in cases in recent days and a significant acceleration across many parts of Scotland; (2) the new Delta variant and the impact this could have on COVID case rates and population health; (3) the significant progress that had been made in both 1st and 2nd vaccination doses across Grampian, with over 75% of the population having received at least one dose; (4) the high levels of bed occupancy across all main sites, reflecting the pressures in regard to system activity and flow. In relation to the growing number of COVID cases the members noted the key actions being taken, including acting fast on early warning signs to minimise outbreaks and stop spread (through enhanced testing and contact tracing) and the acceleration of the vaccine programme assisted by the reduction in gap between first and second dose of vaccine to 8 weeks.
- The members scrutinised the position in relation to performance against the national standards and sought assurances from the executive members regarding actions that were being taken. Matters that were highlighted included

(1) the continued rise in referrals into the CAMHS and Psychological Therapy services. The members noted that following the confirmation of significant additional funding from the Scottish Government that plans were being developed to enhance capacity, with actions being taken in the interim to ensure that access to services remained available on a timely basis.

(2) that the waiting list for elective care had stabilised and remobilisation of activity was progressing. The members however noted the challenges facing the remobilisation of elective care including the impact of rising unscheduled care levels in the context of reduced bed capacity across Grampian.

(3) the waiting list for a first outpatient appointment was continuing to increase, however the percentage of patients in Grampian waiting over 26 weeks continued to be below the national average. Whilst c30% of outpatient activity was being undertaken through digital or telephone options, the capacity in terms of onsite clinics was being impacted by measures required to protect staff and patients; and

(4) performance against the 4 hour emergency department standard remained variable reflecting the pressures within ARI and across the whole health and care system. The members noted that the three health and social care partnerships and Scottish Ambulance Services were supporting changes at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and in the community to improve access and flow for unscheduled care activity.

The members requested updates on progress against the actions being taken in respect of the above and acknowledged the significant efforts of staff given the challenges that the current situation was presenting.

Finance position at end of May 2022

The Committee received a presentation on the Month 2 finance position. The key points noted were:

- An overspend of £0.55m against revenue budget after 2 months due mainly to pressures on medical pay budgets (locums & banding payments)
- COVID support funding will be allocated in July by Scottish Government based on initial Board estimates. COVID expenditure was noted as being c£11m in the first two months; the main elements being the funding of the vaccination programme and contact tracing.

The Deputy Director of Finance confirmed that the year end audit process was progressing and that the first forecast of the financial position would be undertaken at the end of quarter one.

Baird and ANCHOR projects

The members scrutinised the Directors Report in relation to the above projects and would highlight the following:

- The construction of the ANCHOR Centre and the Baird Family Hospital are both on programme. The members noted that the main risk at this time to the programme was the availability of materials in light of the shortages being experienced on major construction projects at this time.
- Progress against the Design Programme was explained and the members noted the complexity of the work and were assured as to the steps being taken to deliver the required actions.
- The members were given a briefing on the Quality Assurance Framework supporting the project and following discussion asked for a more in depth discussion on these arrangements at the August Committee meeting.

Audit Scotland – recent reports of interest

The members considered a summary of the key points included in the following recent Audit Scotland reports and short 'blog' articles. The reports highlighted a number of areas of interest to the work of the Committee and members agreed to receive a similar report twice a year on Audit Scotland publications.

Local government in Scotland
Overview 2021

Covid-19
**Following the
pandemic pound:
our strategy**

Cyber crime: A serious risk to
Scotland's public sector

Equality outcomes
2021–25

Social care reform questions remain

Matters referred to other Board Committees

Whilst, there were no matters referred to any other Board Committee the members noted the requirement for a continued co-ordinated approach to the monitoring of the implementation of the remobilisation plan across the individual committees of the Board.

Rhona Atkinson
Chair, Performance Governance Committee

Attachment: Agenda of Performance Governance Committee meeting of 16 June 2021

**NHS Grampian
Performance Governance Committee
Wednesday 16th June 2021 – 14.00 to 16.00
(Microsoft Teams Meeting)**

Agenda

1.	Welcome	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting – 21 st April 2021	*
3.	Items for Discussion	
	3.1 Health System SitRep	*
	3.2 Performance Against National Standards	*
	3.3 Baird and ANCHOR – Directors Report	*
	3.4 Remobilisation Plan – Governance Arrangements	#
	3.5 Finance Report - May	^
	3.6 Audit Scotland – Recent Relevant Publications	*
4.	Matters to Highlight to Board	#
	Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 18th August 2021 14.00	

* Paper attached

Verbal

^ Presentation