

Performance Governance Committee Assurance Report to Grampian NHS Board

Purpose of Report

This report summarises the key matters considered by the Committee under the 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 18 August 2021.

Recommendation

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

Performance

The members considered a report setting out the Board's performance against the key NHS Scotland performance standards. In considering the report, the members acknowledged the wider context in which the health system was operating – high levels of demand across all services, rising positive COVID cases in the community and the challenges of continuing to provide service within revised operating models and clinical guidance.

The members scrutinised the position in relation to performance against the national standards and sought assurances regarding actions that were being taken. Matters that were highlighted included

(1) performance had improved for both CAMHS and Psychological Therapy services during July. In relation to CAMHS performance this remained significantly again of the national average (90.8% in Grampian, 72.6% nationally), with Psychological Services having improved access performance in the quarter to June and now being close to the national average (81.6% in Grampian, 82.7% nationally).

(2) that due to the impact of wider system pressures the waiting list for elective care treatment had started to rise again for all categories of patient within the Clinical Prioritisation and Escalation System. The members 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 has started to stabilise in recent months, with the percentage of patients in Grampian waiting over 26 weeks continuing 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 and community 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 performance across Scotland was significantly lower than would be anticipated at this time of year. The members also 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 July 2021

The Committee received a presentation on the Month 4 finance position. The key points noted were:

- Reporting an overspend of £1.92m against revenue budget after 4 months, with pressures on medical pay budgets (locums & banding payments), medical supplies, maintenance costs and energy.
- The Director of Finance was still forecasting a break even for the year but that this will need careful financial management.
- Scottish Government have confirmed that additional COVID costs will be fully funded this year, with monthly spend on COVID related activities steady at £4-5m a month (£19.4m YTD). Main elements are the vaccination programme, contact tracing, testing and additional staff input (overtime & excess hours).

The Deputy Director of Finance confirmed that the year end audit process was nearing completion and that the annual report and accounts for 2020/21 would be considered by the Audit Committee and Board at the end of August.

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.

Digital Strategy

The members received a comprehensive update on the implementation of the Digital Strategy from the Director of Facilities and eHealth and General Manager – eHealth. The members noted the extent of the programme that was being progressed. This included significant new developments (such as Hospital Electronic Prescribing and Management), the support to services to enable virtual patient clinics, the rollout of Office 365 and eRostering and the significant work required to maintain our cyber-security measures.

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

Following the meeting the Committee had a development session in relation to the management and governance of the Board's infrastructure and investment programme.

Attachment: Agenda of Performance Governance Committee meeting of 18 August 2021

**NHS Grampian
Performance Governance Committee
Thursday 18th August 2020 – 14.00 – 15.30
(Microsoft Teams Meeting)**

Agenda

- |
1. Welcome
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 16th June 2020
3. Items for Discussion:
 - 3.1 Performance Summary (COVID, NON COVID and Remobilisation Plan milestones)
 - 3.2 Finance Report
 - 3.3 Baird and ANCHOR project directors report
 - 3.4 Remobilisation Plan – progress summary (and RMP4)
 - 3.5 Digital Strategy – update
4. Matters to highlight to the Board

* Paper attached

Verbal

Chair: Rhona Atkinson

Apologies to: else.smaaskjaer@nhs.net