

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>NHS Grampian Board</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>7 December 2023</b>
<b>Item Number:</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2022/23</b>
<b>Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:</b>	<b>Geraldine Fraser, Integrated Families Portfolio Executive Lead</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Caroline Clark, Chief Nurse</b>

## 1 Purpose and recommendation

### **This is presented to the Board for:**

- **Assurance** – review and scrutinise the information provided in this paper and confirm that it provides assurance that NHS Grampian is meeting its corporate parenting legal responsibilities as set out by Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and progression with the Scottish Government’s aspirations set out in The Promise 2020.

### **This report relates to a:**

- Government policy/directive
- Legal requirement

### **This aligns to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition:**

- Person Centred

## 2 Report summary

This report sets out the NHS Grampian progress in meeting corporate parenting responsibilities across Grampian. This details the strategic framework, the current statistics for care experienced children and young people, what we have achieved and the priorities for 2023/24.

The NHS Grampian Corporate Parenting action plan 2023-2026 is currently in draft format and will be provided to a future board meeting.

## 2.1 Situation

This report comes annually to NHS Grampian Board to provide assurance on compliance with corporate parenting responsibilities. NHS Grampian became a statutory corporate parent in April 2015 under part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Corporate Parenting). The statutory obligations impact well beyond child health services to all the functions of NHS Grampian.

## 2.2 Background

The Promise sets out the Scottish Government strategic direction for meeting corporate parenting responsibilities. Published in 2020, The Promise aspires to support shifts in policy, practice and culture so Scotland can **#KeepThePromise** it made to care experienced infants, children, young people, adults and their families - that every child grows up loved, safe and respected, and able to realise their full potential.

NHS Grampian's strategic plan, 'Plan for the Future 2022 – 2028' recognises that by paying particular attention to children, young people and families we can enable healthier and happier future generations. NHS Grampians Children's Board provides the governance and assurance on child health priorities and as such the NHSG Corporate Parenting Group reports to the Children's Board.

## 2.3 Assessment

Statistics and compliance with Initial Health Assessment (IHA) timescales remain static. However, a key risk for NHSG as outlined in section 4.4 of the accompanying report, is around our contribution and support to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). In 2022 there were 22 requests for IHA but to date in 2023 we have had 66 requests.

A new health assessment document has been created to better reflect the needs of this unique cohort of children. In particular the new document includes more appropriate screening for infectious diseases, sexually transmitted diseases and mental health illness.

### 2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

None.

### 2.3.2 Workforce

This unique cohort of children and young people are particularly vulnerable and are likely to have complex physical and mental health, and social needs. Meeting the needs of these children is a priority, however this places a strain on a very small team.

### **2.3.3 Financial**

No known financial impact.

### **2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management**

None required.

### **2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities**

Prioritising our children's health needs is a key strand of the Plan for the Future, as is tackling health inequalities.

### **2.3.6 Other impacts**

None known

### **2.3.7 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation**

This report has been developed with the support of the NHSG Corporate Parenting Group which has membership from across NHS Grampian, including all three HSCPs and local authorities.

### **2.3.8 Route to the Meeting**

The attached report has been developed over a period of months at the NHSG Corporate Parenting Group, whose latest meeting was held on 12 October 2023.

## **2.4 Recommendation**

The Board is asked to:

- review and scrutinise the information provided in this paper and confirm that it provides assurance that NHSG is meeting its corporate parenting legal responsibilities as set out by Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and progression with the Scottish Government's aspirations set out in The Promise 2020.

## **3 Appendix**

Corporate Parenting Annual Report 22-23