

Area Clinical Forum Report to Grampian NHS Board Meeting on the 11th April 2024.

Purpose of Report

This report updates the Grampian NHS Board on key issues arising from the Area Clinical Forum (ACF) meeting on 6th March 2024.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the following key points.

Health and Care Staffing Act (HCSA)

Gerry Lawrie, Head of Workforce and Development, and Elizabeth Wilson, HCSA Implementation Programme Manager, presented the plans for implementation of the Health and care Staffing Act and the impact on professional groups.

The Act comes into effect on 1st April 2024 with an intention to support the health, wellbeing and safety of patients and the wellbeing of staff to enable safe care and improve outcomes.

There was some discussion that the reduction in hours may impact on protected time for training which may reduce compliance in relation to mandatory training. Job planning, already used for some professional groups, may be helpful for others who do not use this at present.

It was noted that it is unlikely that additional financial resources will be available for the roll out.

Advisory Committee reports.

The New template of reporting was discussed and was suggested that these small reports could be circulated beforehand to allow pre reading and therefore suitable questions and answers to be provided.

Allied Health Professions Advisory Committee (AHPAC) highlighted concerns regarding the decision by Aberdeenshire IJB to cut funding for 9 WTE Speech and language Therapists. It was anticipated that this would have a significant adverse impact on young people, families and colleagues in education and healthcare services. Removal of this support may negatively impact children with communication difficulties, and this could lead to poorer attainment and reduction in mental health.

“What Does the Future of Healthcare Look Like Short Term and Long Term Within a Tightening Financial Envelope?”

It had been agreed that the ACF would support a new group along with the Chief Executive Team (CET) and Grampian Area Partnership Forum (GAPF) to commission a development tool to allow services to review how efficiency can be improved and how that could influence financial planning.

Following on from the discussions previously, as noted in the ACF report to the Board meeting on 14 March 2024, Alex Stephen, Director of Finance, presented the overview of the 2023/24 financial position and the challenges in developing the financial plan for 2024/25.

It was acknowledged by all that the communication with staff throughout this exercise had been good and some positive public messaging to encourage behaviours to support prevention and self-management could also help to reduce some expenditure in the longer term.

The ACF will continue to work with the CET and NHS Grampian Board to provide professional advice to the strategic planning as we move forward. We will continue to engage in a balanced approach to healthcare delivery using our 3 governance pillars - clinical, financial and staff and along with a preventative agenda move to a new model of healthcare delivery.

Board Programme

The Board programme is a standing item on the ACF agenda to allow the forum to fulfil the role of providing clinical and professional advice to the CET and Board on relevant topics.

**Mark Burrell, Chair, Area Clinical Forum
April 2024**