

## **Area Clinical Forum Report to Grampian NHS Board Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2022**

### **Purpose of Report**

This report updates the Grampian NHS Board on key issues arising from the Area Clinical Forum (ACF) meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

### **Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note the following key points:

This was a short meeting as we held our ACF workshop for the first part of the meeting. The purpose of the workshop was to improve how we work within the wider system. We were delighted to have good engagement and representation from across the system and some really positive discussion for us to build on.

### **NHS Strategy (Plan for the Future) – Colleagues and Culture**

The ACF welcomed Tom Power (Director of People and Culture) to the meeting to discuss the Colleagues and Culture elements of the Plan for the Future. This was a very useful discussion and there was support from the ACF on the plan, and the focus on staff and the strong messaging around improving culture and staff experience.

### **Dr Gray's Hospital service redesign**

The Area Medical Committee noted some concerns raised by staff around awareness of service plans and redesign and engagement of local clinicians. The Area Medical Committee (AMC) are meeting with colleagues within the team at Dr Gray's Hospital to provide support. The ACF would like to provide multidisciplinary professional support to this process.

### **Workforce challenges**

This was a theme from the meeting felt by all disciplines, in particular medical, allied health professions, psychology, healthcare sciences and pharmacy. From a medical point of view there are significant pressures in primary care and closures of GP practices due to low staffing and in the hospital service there are also significant recruitment challenges. Cited were continued issues with the jobtrain system used for recruitment and delays to the process resulting in vacancies for a longer period. The AMC noted the reduction in the number of clinical academic staff and associated importance of sustaining teaching elements of the medical school. There is concern in the secondary care dental service from the loss of approximately fifty percent of consultants due mostly to retirements. There are recruitment plans, however concern about services should these be unsuccessful.

### **Dental services**

There remains some concern around capacity for NHS dentistry as some practices have deregistered from NHS service lowering the number of NHS patient places. The concern is that this will create a two tier system where many patients will be unable to afford private dentistry and a potential decline in oral health across all Board areas. The Moray area is providing most cause for concern with NHS access. On a positive note there is a new contract which will as a minimum allow a short term increase in the number of NHS patients who can be seen.

## **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 SLT and Board on relevant topics. We look forward to planning our meetings in 2022 aligning with the new Board programme when it is available.

**Kim Cruttenden**  
**Area Clinical Forum Chair**  
**May 2022**