

Area Clinical Forum Report to Grampian NHS Board Meeting on 3 July 2019

Purpose of Report

This report updates the Grampian NHS Board on key issues arising from the Area Clinical Forum meeting on 3 July 2019.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the following key points:

ACF Vice Chairman

The position of Vice-chair of the ACF was vacated by Chris Llewellyn following his term of office and he will continue as a member of the ACF. The group thanked Chris for his commitment to the Vice Chair post and welcomed Catriona Cameron, Grampian Allied Health Professions Advisory Committee (AHPAC) chair into the position.

Performance Assurance and Risk Framework (PAIR)

The ACF welcomed Caroline Hiscox, Acting Director of Nursing Midwifery and Allied Health Professions, to the meeting to discuss the Performance Assurance and Risk Framework (PAIR) process. There was good discussion and appreciation of the positive changes being implemented and the ACF are keen to be involved as this develops and to ensure that the forum is used to provide appropriate clinical and professional advice.

Workforce

The ACF have made a commitment to discuss recruitment and retention at each meeting and discussed a number of positive examples of good practice which can perhaps be shared and used by different professions. Examples included: having students over summer periods or as weekend workers all year round to encourage them to apply for posts in NHSG on qualification and engaging with universities to enhance experiential learning and support students in our system. The healthcare scientist group held a successful day welcoming school pupils into the departments focussing on biomedical sciences as future career options in NHSG. Other professions have been targeting school pupils at careers fairs to raise awareness of NHSG careers in health services. It was also raised by a number of ACF members that there has been lots of positive improvement in the recruitment process and screening of internal candidates. However, there are still concerns over the time taken from interview to appointment of external candidates which affects service delivery and risks candidates not taking up positions.

The APC (Area Pharmaceutical Committee) again raised considerable concerns regarding destabilisation of services due to the staffing requirements to fulfil the pharmacotherapy aspects of the GP contract. A paper has been produced by the pharmacotherapy group highlighting potential numbers of staff and the APC is in the process of forming a paper illustrating the current impact and risks to existing services going forward.

Board Programme/ SLT engagement

The Board programme will continue to be 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 will plan ahead in advance of Board meetings to prioritise which topics we will bring to the table for discussion and which will be discussed with the respective committees outside of the ACF meetings. It may be that some professions will focus on certain topics and feed into the ACF. It will be useful to have a defined 'ask' of the ACF on each topic e.g. key questions to be answered to focus discussion and to ensure that those SLT members leading on aspects of the Board programme gain the advice required in a timely fashion.

The ACF will use its meetings to focus on certain key topics from the Board Programme but due to some committees only meeting every two months, some discussion will require to be had prior to the ACF meetings. In addition the ACF are pleased to be starting a series of regular meetings with the SLT, starting September 2019.

Kim Cruttenden
Area Clinical Forum Chair
July 2019