

Area Clinical Forum Report to Grampian NHS Board Meeting on 13 November 2019

Purpose of Report

This report updates the Grampian NHS Board on key issues arising from the Area Clinical Forum (ACF) meeting on 13 November 2019.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the following key points:

Grampian Outcomes Framework

The ACF welcomed Gillian Evans, Head of Health Intelligence, to the meeting to provide an overview of the Grampian Outcomes Framework. This was received with a lot of enthusiasm and discussion and the forum is very keen to help shape the framework and it was agreed to invite Gillian back to a meeting mid-2020 to review the progress.

Sturrock working group

The ACF also welcomed Anne Inglis, Head of Organisational Development, to the meeting to provide an update from the Sturrock Working Group. We discussed the purpose of the group and the request for all staff to reflect on the report and to engage in answering the questions relating to relationships, trust and confidence in their workplace. We agreed to raise awareness (through the committees) of the questions and the importance for staff to take time to answer these.

Violence and Aggression

Following the ACF September report where the Grampian Area Nursing and Midwifery Committee (GANMAC) raised the issue of violence and aggression towards staff it is noted that considerable improvement work and raised awareness has occurred however this is an ongoing issue and area of concern.

Workforce

This continues to be a regular topic of discussion at each ACF meeting. As previously raised there are concerns with delays in the system of recruitment and the new Jobtrain system continues to challenge managers due to new ways of working and additional administration required for them. There will be representation at the next ACF from HR and OHS to discuss issues.

Pharmacy staffing – due to availability of trained staff in the Grampian area and the increased number of new roles (particularly within GP practice) the Acute Pharmacy Service is under significant pressure to maintain current practice and the pressure of increased winter activity will require some service to be withdrawn. The Area Pharmaceutical Committee (APC) report pressures from community pharmacies who are also having difficulty recruiting staff.

Research/

Research

Concerns were raised again at the meeting around the engagement in research within the NHS and how we can take advantage of the current situation and make improvements. The Foresterhill site has a perfect blend on site of patients, staff, students, and a constant need for improvement and in addition lots of data is being collected. The ACF are very keen that links with our research partners are enhanced i.e. mainly with Aberdeen University and Robert Gordon University. The ACF is keen to discuss this further to explore ideas such as a forum for clinicians wanting to do research to meet, protected time for staff at all levels for research and academic work. The ACF feel strongly that if we enhance our current provision we will benefit in a number of ways and in particular attracting additional candidates to posts throughout the organisation.

System Leadership Team (SLT) engagement

The ACF and SLT are due to have their second meeting on the 2nd December, the focus of which will be organisational culture and the board programme. These meetings are now set to occur every 3 months.

Board Programme

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. It is still proving difficult to arrange appropriate consultations with the ACF in line with the board programme.

Kim Cruttenden
Area Clinical Forum Chair
November 2019