

Purpose of Report

This report updates the Grampian NHS Board on key issues arising from the Committee meeting on 14 February 2019, which the Committee considers would be of interest to Board members.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the following key points:

1. Modernisation Programme in NHS Grampian

Graeme Legge, Strategic Asset Manager, provided a presentation to the Committee on backlog maintenance and the capital investment programme over the last five years. He reported that substantial investment and an extensive amount of work has significantly improved the quality of buildings from which healthcare services are delivered across Grampian and has reduced the number of high risk items and the amount of remaining backlog maintenance. Graeme gave an overview of the works undertaken and highlighted how adopting a whole system approach had resulted in considerable improvements for staff and patients.

The Committee commended the quality and breadth of investment across acute, primary care and community services and the sensitive way in which buildings had been designed to meet the needs of patients and service users. This included the incorporation of appropriate spaces for spiritual care delivery and suitable rooms for the delivery of Community Chaplaincy Listening. The Committee was pleased that these considerations were part of building design, alongside clinical requirements.

2. Spiritual Care Policy

The final draft of the NHS Grampian Spiritual Care Policy for 2018 – 2022 had been circulated with the agenda and was discussed by the Committee. It was noted that an earlier draft of the policy had been considered at the previous meeting. Since then the policy had been impact assessed and a consultation exercise had been undertaken.

The Committee noted that the purpose of the policy is to set out the delivery of the vision that Spiritual Care is an integral part of the multi-professional healthcare team in NHS Grampian in order to provide good experiences for patients, carers and visitors, in hospital and the community. As staff are the greatest resource NHS Grampian has, this vision includes having well supported staff who recognise their own skills in spiritual care in the support of those they care for and are themselves supported in the environment they work in.

The Committee approved the policy and commended Mark Rodgers, Lead Chaplain/Head of Spiritual Care, on leading its development.

3. Spiritual Care Annual Report

Mark Rodgers presented a very comprehensive Annual Report on the work of Healthcare Chaplains in 2018 to the Committee. Mark used the theme of “Trees that bend in the Wind” for his report and described the culmination of a process of re-shaping the structure of the department, paid tribute to retiring chaplains and welcomed new members to the team and acknowledged the contribution made to the 70th anniversary celebrations of the NHS. He also referred to the challenges faced by many staff in the organisation and the valuable role chaplains play in providing support to staff as well as to patients. He concluded his report by saying, “I realise that we live in a day when resources and finance in healthcare are constantly under scrutiny. We are very grateful as a department for the resources made available to us by NHS Grampian. We hope that the above flavour of our activity shows that the use of NHS Grampian money to fund the Chaplaincy department is a prudent, wise use of resources, as we support patients, relatives, staff and indeed the organisation to ensure that although they bend in the wind, they do not break”.

The Committee thanked Mark for his report and commended him for its comprehensive overview of activity. The Committee members also asked for their thanks to be passed to the whole chaplaincy team for their unstinting work throughout 2018.

Amy Anderson
Spiritual Care Committee Chair
March 2019