

Area Clinical Forum Report to Grampian NHS Board Meeting on the 7th of September 2022

Purpose of Report

This report updates the Grampian NHS Board on key issues arising from the Area Clinical Forum (ACF) meeting on the 7th of September 2022.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the following key points:

Representation at the meeting was unusually low and this was due to a conflicting meeting which had been arranged at the same time involving many of the committee members.

Redesign of Urgent Care

The ACF was delighted to welcome Michael Coulthard, Programme Manager, to the meeting to discuss the current ongoing process around the redesign of urgent care. There was good discussion and the opportunity to engage further as part of the wider consultation programme which is ongoing.

ACF integration

Following engagement meetings and a workshop, the ACF are still working on connecting with the new portfolios and systems. The chair has attended meetings with two of the portfolios with another one is scheduled, however has not been able to meet with the two remaining portfolios yet. We are spreading the message about the composition and purpose of the ACF which is helping raise awareness but are still requiring a steer from system leaders on how to link into the relevant forums. We need to ensure that we have representation across the system so that we are able to volunteer for appropriate activities and link into suitable strategies in development at an early stage.

Workforce challenges

A regular theme and shared concern within the ACF is the workforce challenges within the professions. Particular focus at this meeting was the challenges for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs), notably Speech and Language Therapy and Radiology. Work is ongoing within services to increase recruitment however this is a slow process. We are very keen to work together to engage with individuals via multiple methods to encourage them to start a career within the NHS. We will be consulting with the wider system on how the professions can join forces to advocate for health related careers with particular emphasis on some of the less well known careers such as those within healthcare science.

Pharmacy also cited particular challenge in all sectors resulting in reduced service within acute and occasional closure of some community pharmacies due to staffing issues.

Supplementary staffing

Conversation continues around the supplementary staffing commission which we are working on; we will be drawing this to a close soon with feedback to the System Leadership Team (SLT).

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 2022/3 aligning with the new Board programme when it is available.

Kim Cruttenden
Area Clinical Forum Chair
September 2022