

NHS Ayrshire & Arran



Meeting:	Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Meeting date:	Tuesday 26 March 2024
Title:	Healthcare Governance Committee meeting on 4 March 2024 – Chair’s report to NHS Board
Responsible Director:	Ms Jennifer Wilson, Nurse Director
Report Author:	Ms Linda Semple, Non-Executive Director

1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board for: Discussion.

This paper relates to: Local policy to ensure good governance practice in reporting from board committees

This aligns to the NHS Scotland quality ambitions of Safe, Effective and Person Centred. Good governance practice supports the effective delivery of services across the organisation.

2. Report summary

2.1 Situation

This report provides information to Board Members on key items discussed within the Governance Committee’s remit, in order to provide assurance to the Board that those matters have been identified and are being addressed, where required.

2.2 Background

The Board Model Standing Orders advises that Board meeting papers will include the minutes of committee meetings which the relevant committee has approved. To ensure that there is no delay in reporting from committees this paper provides a timely update on key items from committees.

2.3 Assessment

Key items agreed by Committee are noted below. Identification of organisational risks, stakeholder considerations and other impacts were included in papers to the Committee.

- **Patient Experience – Complaint Handling** – Committee members were assured that appropriate processes are in place to address areas of concern around

complaint handling performance. The Committee recognised the extensive work being done by the Complaints team, as well as all staff engaged in complaint handling, and the focused improvement work taking place which should result in improved performance in the future.

- **Infection Prevention and Control internal audit report** – Members discussed the internal audit report and progress with the improvement action plan developed in response to the audit’s recommendations. Members noted plans to implement a national electronic infection control monitoring system which would address some of the audit’s recommendations. The Committee received assurance that there are robust arrangements in place to track actions to completion and consideration will be given to the use of learning summaries in the future.
- **Cervical Screening Exclusion Audit update** - Committee members noted with concern the low uptake for this screening and that work is planned locally to raise awareness and promote screening uptake among those eligible.
- **Food Fluid and Nutrition (FFN) Improvement Action Plan** - Committee members noted progress with the improvement action plan, areas of variation and future work planned to address. Members recognised that this is a key area of risk for the Board in terms of patient safety.
- **Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) Young People Monitoring report 2022-2023** – The Committee noted the annual report which highlighted the number of children and young people under 18 years admitted to non-specialist units for psychiatric treatment, with a reduction in admissions compared to the last year. Overall, admissions to non-specialist units over the last 10 years were on a reducing trend.
- **Winter Vaccinations Programme update** – Committee members noted the change in process for delivery of the vaccinations programme which is now delivered through Public Health. The Committee received assurance that every effort has been made to deliver a flexible programme to enable people to receive Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations across a variety of different settings. Members expressed concern at the reduced uptake of vaccinations among health and care staff, although it was acknowledged that Flu vaccination uptake locally is above the national average.
- **Patient Experience themed report** – The Committee noted the improvement actions being taken as a result of complaints made. Members welcomed the collaborative work taking place with Ayrshire College. The Board had recently welcomed over 100 Healthcare students who would take on the role of inpatient volunteers as part of their Healthcare studies at Ayrshire College, with positive feedback from students and ward staff to date.

The Board is asked to be aware of and discuss the key items highlighted and receive assurance that issues are being addressed, where required.

2.4 Recommendation

The Board is asked to be aware of and discuss the key items highlighted and receive assurance that items are being addressed, where required.