

Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Minutes of a public meeting on Monday 4 October 2021
9.30am, MS Teams meeting

Present: Non-Executive Members:
Mrs Lesley Bowie, Board Chair
Mrs Margaret Anderson
Mr Michael Breen
Cllr Laura Brennan-Whitefield - attended part of meeting
Mr Adrian Carragher
Cllr Joe Cullinane
Dr Sukhomoy Das
Mrs Jean Ford
Mr Ewing Hope - attended part of meeting
Ms Mhairi Kennedy
Mr Bob Martin, Vice Chair
Cllr Douglas Reid

Executive Members:
Prof Hazel Borland (Interim Chief Executive)
Mr Derek Lindsay (Director of Finance)
Dr Crawford McGuffie (Medical Director)
Mrs Lynne McNiven (Director of Public Health)

In attendance: Ms Caroline Cameron (Director of Health and Social Care, North Ayrshire)
Mrs Vicki Campbell (Head of Primary Care and Urgent Care Services)
Dr Ruth Campbell (Consultant Dietitian in Public Health)
Mrs Kirstin Dickson (Director for Transformation and Sustainability)
Mrs Joanne Edwards (Director for Acute Services)
Mr Tim Eltringham (Director of Health and Social Care, South Ayrshire)
Ms Nicola Graham (Director Infrastructure and Support Services)
Ms Sarah Leslie (Human Resources Director)
Mr Craig McArthur (Director of Health and Social Care, East Ayrshire)
Mrs Shona McCulloch (Head of Corporate Governance)
Ms Jen Pennycook (Chief Nurse, Excellence in Care) items 6.1 and 6.2
Ms Elaine Savory (Equality and Diversity Project Manager) item
Mr Bob Wilson (Infection Control Manager) item 6.3

Mrs Angela O'Mahony (Committee Secretary) minutes

The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Board Chair formally recorded thanks to Mr John Rainey, as a valued Board Member and North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board Member, who had recently stood down from the Board for personal reasons. The Board Chair congratulated Mr Bob Martin on the extension to his appointment as a Board Member and Board Vice Chair for a further 18 months up to 30 April 2023.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Sheila Cowan, Linda Semple and Jennifer Wilson.

2. Declaration of interests (130/2021)

There were no declarations noted.

3. Minute of the meeting of the NHS Board held on 16 August 2021 (131/2021)

The minute was approved as an accurate record of the discussion.

4. Matters arising (132/2021)

The Board action log was circulated to Board Members in advance of the meeting and all progress against actions was noted.

5. Chief Executive and Board Chair report

5.1 Chief Executive's report (133/2021)

- The Interim Chief Executive, Prof Hazel Borland, provided a detailed update on decision making and communication that had taken place over recent months in the context of NHS Scotland experiencing a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact on unscheduled and planned care and across the wider health and care system. The high levels of COVID-19 positive cases and particularly test and protect isolation had resulted in high levels of staff absences, with staff reassigned to support priority areas under pressure. Prof Borland gave assurance that urgent, cancer, cancer diagnostic procedures and trauma response had continued to be provided throughout.

Prof Borland apologised to patients who had been affected by the difficult decisions which had been made with the aim of keeping NHS Ayrshire & Arran (NHSAA) hospitals as safe as possible for patients already receiving care. A number of other Boards across Scotland had made very similar decisions in recent months. Board Members, local MSPs/MPs, the three Ayrshire Local Authorities and Scottish Government colleagues had been kept informed of all these decisions.

Due to the increased community prevalence, the Board took the difficult position to reduce back to essential visiting to reduce footfall in hospitals at this time. The position will be reviewed at the end of October 2021.

Prof Boland advised that the Board's Emergency Management Team will continue to meet weekly throughout the winter months. The Scottish Government had confirmed on 29 September 2021 that emergency planning arrangements will continue to be in place until at least 31 March 2022.

The Area Clinical Forum (ACF) Chair, Mr Adrian Carragher, highlighted the challenges for the Professional Committees being able to meet due to the range of pressures currently being faced which had resulted in some meetings being cancelled in September 2021. Consideration had been given to standing down the Professional Committees, however, it had been agreed that these meetings

should continue, and a flexible approach adopted to enable Committees to cancel meetings if required. Mr Carragher gave assurance that the Area Clinical Forum was committed to continuing to provide advice and support to the Board.

The Area Partnership Forum (APF) Chair, Mr Ewing Hope, reported that the APF had recently met with the Interim Chief Executive and Interim Nurse Director to discuss the difficult challenges currently being faced. Mr Hope gave assurance that the APF will continue to pragmatically support the Board's decision making to work through the current difficult situation and keep staff and patients as safe as possible.

The Medical Director, Dr Crawford McGuffie, advised that he and the Interim Chief Executive were carrying out regular walkrounds and recognised the strong commitment of staff who continued to work above and beyond in response to the immense pressures being faced.

The Board Chair advised that the Board continued to consider its governance arrangements, and was adopting a flexible and slimmed down approach as required to keep governance in place. The Board Chair would keep Board Members updated on the position going forward.

5.2 Board Chair's report (134/2021)

- The Board Chair advised that she had taken over the Chair of the West of Scotland (WOS) Chairs' Group and chaired her first meeting in September 2021. The Group had considered work being taken forward by the WOS Regional Programme Board and while there had been some delays, the Group would continue to focus on progressing this regional work.

6. Quality

6.1 Patient story (135/2021)

On behalf of the Interim Nurse Director, Ms Jen Pennycook, Chief Nurse, Excellence in Care, presented the Patient Story which outlined the benefits of Volunteering to both individuals and the wider organisation.

Ms Pennycook advised that the Patient Experience Team will launch a recruitment drive in October 2021 which will provide an opportunity to test digital stories as a tool to enhance the recruitment and retention of volunteers in NHSAA. There were plans to share a digital story at a future Board meeting.

Outcome: Board Members recognised the valuable contribution volunteers can make to the organisation and noted plans in place to recruit to newly developed and existing roles.

6.2 Patient experience (136/2021)

The Chief Nurse, Excellence in Care, Ms Jen Pennycook, presented the Patient Experience Q1 report. A version of the report was discussed in detail at the Healthcare Governance Committee (HGC) meeting on 13 September 2021.

Ms Pennycook highlighted that there had been a slight rise in Stage 1 complaints for Q1. Stage 2 activity was similar to the previous quarter but significantly lower than in previous years. There was reduced performance in resolving concerns and Stage 1 complaints within the target of 5-10 days. Performance had dipped below the 85% target for the first time since 2018. There had been a drop in performance in meeting the 20 working day target for Stage 2 complaints.

Board Members received assurance that clear communication was in place with all complainants to ensure that they were kept updated and informed of actions being progressed. The Complaint team was meeting regularly with investigation leads to support the complaints process to completion.

Ms Pennycook reported that there had been a slight rise in Scottish Public Services Ombudsman referrals, however, investigations remained at their lowest level, with one currently underway.

Board Members received details of quality improvement activity. An Extreme Team had been commissioned by the Interim Nurse Director to ensure an innovative and sustainable approach to improvement from patient experience, and outcomes will be provided in future reports.

Following the appointment of the new Patient Experience Facilitator, the team was currently reviewing the approaches to feedback to provide greater opportunity for more feedback to be received, especially at the point of care.

Board Members discussed the report and recognised the significant work done by the Complaint team and teams across the organisation to continue to respond to feedback despite pandemic pressures. Ms Pennycook advised, in response to a suggestion from a Board Member, that she would ask the Interim Nurse Director to review the Complainant Experience question relating to Stage 2 complaints and contact with services, and include regular contact from the Complaint team as well as the service investigating the complaint.

Outcome: Board Members noted feedback and complaint activity and performance in Q1, actions being progressed to improve overall performance and the work being progressed to evidence sustainable improvement from complaints.

6.3 Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) report (137/2021)

On behalf of the Interim Nurse Director, the Infection Control Manager, Mr Bob Wilson, provided the Board's performance against the national HCAI Standards using the latest verified national data for the year ending March 2021, as previously reported to the Board in August 2021. Verified data for the year ending June 2021 will be published later this week and included in the next HCAI report to the Board.

Mr Wilson reported that the Board's community acquired (CA) Escherichia coli Bacteraemia (ECB) rate for quarter ending March 2021 was higher than the Scottish rate and as a result the Board had been issued with an Exception Report. As this had been the Board's third successive CA ECB Exception Report, Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland had invoked the Chief Nursing Officer's National Support Framework and escalated the issue to the

Scottish Government Healthcare Associated Infection Policy Unit. The Interim Nurse Director and Mr Wilson had discussed the report with representatives from the Policy Unit, as there were currently no identified healthcare interventions to reduce the rate. It had been agreed that the Board would seek support from ARHAI Scotland to provide additional data analysis and once received this will be reviewed to determine any potential healthcare interventions.

Mr Wilson explained that as resources become available, the focus will be to reduce healthcare associated ECBs, especially urinary catheter related. Mr Wilson suggested, in response to a question from a Board Member, that broader public health interventions, such as improving hydration in older people, could reduce the risk of urinary tract infection, however, this activity would not be led by the Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT).

Outcome: Board Members discussed and noted the update on HCAI activity.

6.4 Scottish Patient Safety Programme (SPSP) - Maternity and Children (138/2021) Quality Improvement Collaborative (MCQIC) Neonatal work stream

The Director for Acute Services, Mrs Joanne Edwards, presented the SPSP MCQIC Neonatal work stream report. A version of the report had been discussed in detail at HGC on 13 September 2021.

Board Members were advised that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MCQIC Programme was suspended nationally to allow staff to be deployed where necessary. This had also impacted on improvement work and data collection within Women and Children's Services. Local improvement meetings were also suspended, however, these had been re-scheduled and a programme established for 2021. A further suspension of work locally was recently deemed necessary again to re-prioritise resources in response to increasing COVID-19 pressures.

Mrs Edwards provided an update on progress and improvement work taking place in priority areas of care, including to reduce "term" admissions to the Neonatal Unit (NNU) and to optimise the management of care of pre-term babies. In addition to these core measures, other measures included to reduce harm from transition of care and undetected deterioration, and to ensure compliance with the sepsis bundle in relation to central line associated blood stream infection (CLABSI).

Board Members discussed the report and were encouraged that there had been no cases of CLABSI acquired within NHSAA recorded since June 2019, with one case recorded in April 2021 relating to a baby transferred from another health board and not attributed to NHSAA NNU. Board Members acknowledged the improvement work done to implement the transitional Neonatal care area and the pre-term perinatal wellbeing package, and the positive feedback from service users.

Outcome: Board Members discussed and noted the ongoing work of clinical improvement within Neonatal services as part of the MCQIC Programme.

7. Corporate Governance

7.1 Board meeting dates 2022-2023 (139/2021)

The Head of Corporate Governance, Shona McCulloch, presented proposed Board meeting dates for 2022-2023. The meeting schedule followed the same format as in previous years. In accordance with the Board Standing Orders, the Annual Accounts meeting in June 2022 will be held in Private. Following agreement, the meeting schedule will aid planning and arrangements for Governance Committee meetings and enable the Board's Corporate Calendar 2022-2023 to be developed and presented to a future Board meeting for approval.

Outcome: Board Members approved the Board meeting dates for 2022-2023.

7.2 Board Committee membership (140/2021)

The Head of Corporate Governance, Shona McCulloch, presented proposed changes to Board committee responsibilities. The proposed changes took into account that Mr John Rainey had stood down from the Board at the end of August 2021.

Board Members were advised that Mrs Jean Ford had agreed to join North Ayrshire (NA) IJB on an interim basis. Arrangements to fill vacancies on NA IJB, Staff Governance Committee and Performance Governance Committee were being considered and proposals will be brought to the next meeting.

Mrs McCulloch advised that Mr Bob Martin's Non-Executive appointment to the Board had been extended by the Cabinet Secretary for an additional 18 months from 1 November 2021 to 30 April 2023. Mr Martin will retain his Vice Chair role and current committee responsibilities.

Outcome: Board Members approved changes to Board committee responsibilities.

7.3 Healthcare Governance Committee Minutes (141/2021)

On behalf of the Committee Chair, the Vice Chair, Mr Adrian Carragher, presented the minute of the meeting held on 2 August 2021. Mr Carragher reported key areas of focus and scrutiny at the meeting on 13 September 2021. The Committee had acknowledged the significant pressures on the health and care system and thanked the Interim Chief Executive and all staff for the work being done to meet the particularly difficult challenges being faced.

Outcome: Board Members considered and noted the minute and update. Board Members recorded their appreciation and thanks to the Interim Chief Executive and staff across health and care for the hard work being done to address the difficult challenges being faced due to the pandemic and the wider impact across the system.

7.4 Information Governance Committee (142/2021)

The Committee Chair, Mrs Jean Ford, presented the minute of the meeting held on 9 June 2021. The Chair reported key areas of focus and scrutiny at the meeting on 30 August 2021.

Outcome: Board Members considered and noted the minute and update.

7.5 Performance Governance Committee (143/2021)

The Committee Chair, Mr Bob Martin, presented the minute of the meeting held on 20 May 2021. The Chair reported key areas of focus and scrutiny at the meeting on 2 September 2021.

Outcome: Board Members considered and noted the minute and update.

8. Service

8.1 Improving local breastfeeding rates (144/2021)

The Director of Public Health, Mrs Lynne McNiven, introduced the report and invited the Consultant Dietitian in Public Health Nutrition, Dr Ruth Campbell, to update on the work currently underway to improve breastfeeding rates.

Dr Campbell outlined the work taking place in NHSAA as part of the Programme for Government 2018-2021, to develop a new multidisciplinary model of infant feeding support. This included universal support being provided to all women by Maternity and Health Visitor teams and targeted work to encourage breastfeeding among women who were least likely to breastfeed. The report provided detailed breastfeeding data for Ayrshire and Arran in 2020-2021.

Dr Campbell highlighted not only the health benefits of breastfeeding to mums and babies but the wider benefits in terms of children's emotional attachment, as well as economic and environmental benefits. The three Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) and Local Authorities had identified breastfeeding as a priority within their Children and Young People's Services Plans, and this early intervention and prevention approach aligned to the principles of Caring for Ayrshire.

Board Members were advised that Programme for Government funding had ended in April 2021 and the Scottish Government had agreed a further year of reduced funding for this work. The Board had agreed that the peer support service, including to NNU, should be prioritised but the model had changed to all first time mums. Additional support was available through breastfeeding buddies, a volunteer led model through the Breastfeeding Network. The Board had not yet been advised of funding arrangements beyond April 2022.

Board Members discussed the variable breastfeeding rates across Ayrshire, particularly the low rates within the most deprived communities. Dr Campbell explained that a range of measures were needed to respond to this public health issue, including targeted early support. Dr Campbell emphasised that this was a community planning issue which extended much wider than NHS services, and she reiterated the need to consider the economic and environmental benefits of breastfeeding.

Board Members acknowledged the significant work that had taken place over a number of years to improve breastfeeding rates across Ayrshire and Arran and were encouraged by the positive impact of the targeted approach being taken. It was suggested that a similar approach and learning could be adopted in the context of other public health issues, such as obesity.

Outcome: Board Members noted progress to improve local breastfeeding rates.

8.2 Maternity Strategy (145/2021)

On behalf of the Interim Nurse Director, the Director for Acute Services, Mrs Joanne Edwards, provided an overview of the NHSAA five year Maternity Strategy. The strategy had been developed in alignment with the National Best Start Strategy, to provide a person-centred approach to delivering care as well as looking after staff within the Maternity Unit. A version of the strategy had been discussed at HGC on 13 September 2021.

Mrs Edwards advised that following review of the national strategy and consideration of the 76 recommendations, Women and Children's services had developed the local strategy, streamlining the requirements into a concise "infographic" style document.

Board Members were advised that over the past 18 months, a number of Best Start recommendations had been paused due to the pandemic. While it had not been possible to re-establish the NHSAA Best Start group, work had continued and the team had progressed development of the strategy and plans. The Board was working with the Scottish Government to deliver a sustainable model of care, including consideration of the impact on workforce going forward.

The Interim Chief Executive, Prof Borland, advised, in response to a question from a Board Member, that normal births were clearly defined and should intervention be needed, for example, Caesarian section, the birth would not be considered as normal. Prof Borland highlighted that there had been an increase in the number of Caesarian sections carried out across Scotland in recent years, as part of a suite of interventions in order to keep mums and babies safe and reduce stillbirth rates and neonatal admissions.

Outcome: Board Members noted the overview of the local Maternity Strategy in alignment with the National Strategy.

9. Performance

9.1 Performance Report (146/2021)

The Director for Transformation and Sustainability, Mrs Kirstin Dickson, presented a report on unscheduled and planned care performance during Q1 2021-2022. As previously reported to the Board, the report's format had been revised and included a high level summary of COVID-19 hospital data and progress against Remobilisation Plan 3 trajectories and measures. In addition, benchmarking data was provided to highlight the Board's performance in the context of performance across NHS Scotland.

Board Members received a detailed update on performance relating to COVID-19, Planned Care Waiting Times, Diagnostics, Cancer, Mental Health, Unscheduled Care and Delayed Discharges. Mrs Dickson highlighted areas of particular challenge and mitigating actions and improvements being progressed to increase capacity and improve performance. Mrs Dickson advised that, as reported earlier in the meeting, access to Cancer and Cancer Diagnostic services had been maintained throughout.

Mrs Dickson confirmed, in response to a question from a Board Member, that the sharp increase in urgent cancer suspected referrals reported during Q1 had continued. The Director for Acute Services, Mrs Joanne Edwards, explained that referral data was provided weekly and this was being used to plan capacity. Acute services were working closely with GP colleagues to understand early referrals to the new pathway and allow early urgent cancer referrals from secondary teams.

Mrs Dickson explained, in response to a question from a Board Member, that the Board was required to report against nationally defined measures in relation to unscheduled and planned ED attendances, to reflect the separate referral pathways. NHSAA also collected combined data to measure the planned and unscheduled care pathway.

The Director of Health and Social Care for South Ayrshire, Mr Tim Eltringham, highlighted the significant issue of delayed transfer of care within South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) due to increasing demand, recruitment and retention issues, particularly with private care home providers, and recent issues for care homes related to COVID-19 outbreaks. Mr Eltringham provided assurance that the HSCP was working closely with colleagues in Acute services in relation to this work and every opportunity was being considered to review the position and work differently to make the most of the resource available.

In response to a question, the HR Director, Ms Sarah Leslie, provided an update on the current challenging position in relation to workforce capacity and the impact on services across Ayrshire. Ms Leslie updated that non-COVID-19 related staff absence rates were currently at the seasonal average for the time of year at around 5.8% which compared well to other West of Scotland Boards although this was subject to fluctuation. COVID-19 related absences were around 2%. Ms Leslie highlighted the difficulties in relation to backfill and recruiting to bank shifts and extra hours over the summer. Ms Leslie gave assurance that in progressing recruitment, priority was being given to fast tracking patient facing roles and the recruitment process had been accelerated compared to performance in 2020. The Interim Chief Executive had raised with Scottish Government whether it was possible to seek the support of Disclosure Scotland to try to increase their capacity to manage increased requests while recruitment is increased across Scotland.

Outcome: Board Members noted the update and received assurance on the management and provision of unscheduled and planned care.

9.2 Financial Management Report for Month 5

(147/2021)

The Director of Finance, Mr Derek Lindsay, provided a report on the Board's financial position for month 5 to 31 August 2021. The Board had set a deficit budget

of £12.1 million for 2021/2022 in May 2021. The deficit after five months was £2.5 million, similar to the position at the end of month four.

Mr Lindsay reported a small underspend of £157,000 for Acute services. The Board's overall overspend was driven by the historic underlying deficit in Corporate Reserves, shown at Appendix 1 of the report.

Mr Lindsay highlighted that the cumulative month five nursing agency spend was £2.0 million, with £0.5 million incurred in month five, which was much higher than in previous years. The main driver for this increasing reliance on agency was the opening of around 100 additional beds within Acute hospitals. It was anticipated that around 100 nursing students due to graduate in September 2021 would join NHSAA. Mr Lindsay explained that while this would alleviate some workforce pressures, staff challenges were expected to continue for some time, for the reasons discussed earlier in the meeting.

Board Members were advised of COVID-19 expenditure to date, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report. Mr Lindsay highlighted that the biggest areas of expenditure related to COVID-19 vaccination, additional Acute hospital bed capacity and contact tracing staff. Quarterly returns were being submitted to the Scottish Government to identify these costs which were expected to be covered by the Scottish Government.

Mr Lindsay reported that the Cash Releasing Efficiency Savings (CRES) programme projected a £3.2 million shortfall against the target of £13.5 million. The main element of the shortfall related to £1.47 million planned savings for the reduced volume of supplies expenditure as a result of pausing elective care due to COVID-19. However, the Scottish Government had advised that this could not be shown as a CRES saving and should be offset against COVID-19 expenditure. Whilst this had worsened the CRES position, the underlying financial position remained the same. Mr Lindsay advised, in response to a question, that he had met with Scottish Government colleagues recently to discuss progress against the CRES programme and the Board was projected to achieve over £10m CRES savings this year.

Outcome: Board Members noted the Board's financial position for month 5 to 31 August 2021.

9.3 East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (EAHSCP) (148/2021) Annual Performance Report

The Director of Health and Social Care for East Ayrshire, Mr Craig McArthur, presented the EAHSCP Annual Performance Report 2020-2021, as required by the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. The report had previously been considered and endorsed by the IJB.

Mr McArthur reported performance against key measures of the national health and wellbeing outcomes. Positive progress had been made in relation to the Core Suite of Integration Data and Ministerial Strategy Group measures. There had been notable improvements across health and wellbeing and children and young people outcomes, including alcohol-related hospital admission; child protection re-registration; and healthy birth weight. A number of challenging areas of performance had been identified relating to hospital readmission within 28 days; emergency

attendance conversion and breastfeeding. The Partnership was committed to addressing these areas of challenge following a process of continuous improvement.

Mr McArthur highlighted the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic had presented and provided examples of the instrumental role played by the Partnership to ensure the continued delivery of safe and effective services to protect those most at risk in the local communities.

Board Members recognised the good work undertaken by EAHSCP over the last year in spite of the challenges faced, including the ongoing work to try reduce delayed hospital discharge; activity to improve young people's mental health, which had been identified as a particular issue during the pandemic; and the progress made to improve end of life care.

Outcome: Board Members noted and endorsed the annual performance report.

9.4 East Ayrshire Children and Young People's Services Plan (EA CYP) annual report 2020-2021 (149/2021)

The Director of Health and Social Care for East Ayrshire, Mr Craig McArthur, presented the EA CYP annual report as required by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and following updated guidance on children's services planning, effective from 1 April 2020. The report had been endorsed by the IJB.

Mr McArthur provided an update on progress against the six key priority areas identified in the EA CYP agreed in August 2020 to improve local priorities and outcomes for children and young people in EA. Mr McArthur highlighted the very strong partnership dimension and the significant engagement that had taken place with young people during the year, which was reflected in case studies throughout the report.

9.5 South Ayrshire Children's Services Plan (SA CSP) annual Report 2020-2021 (150/2021)

The Director of Health and Social Care for South Ayrshire, Mr Tim Eltringham, presented the SA CSP annual report as required by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Mr Eltringham set out the positive progress made against the five key priority areas identified in the SA CSP agreed in April 2020 to improve local priorities and outcomes for children and young people in SA.

Mr Eltringham highlighted in particular the positive progress to improve local breastfeeding rates; provision of early learning centres; financial inclusion activity; and the work of the pan-Ayrshire Family Nurse Partnership. The South Ayrshire Champions Board had made significant progress in recent years in ensuring appropriate and positive focus on the approach taken to support children and young people with experience of care.

9.6 North Ayrshire Children's Services Plan (NA CSP) performance Report 2020-2021 (151/2021)

The Director of Health and Social Care for North Ayrshire, Ms Caroline Cameron, presented the NA CSP annual report, the first performance report since the launch of the CSP 2021-2023 in October 2020. The report had been presented to the IJB on 17 June 2021.

Ms Cameron reported progress against the five key priority areas identified to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in NA. The report provided case studies and performance data to demonstrate progress. Ms Cameron highlighted in particular the launch of the NA Youth Participation and Citizens Strategy 2021-2025 and the strong engagement with young people in developing the strategy; the work undertaken by the Child Protection Committee to ratify the first localised Child Sexual Abuse Strategy in Scotland in 2020; and the support work undertaken to improve local breastfeeding rates.

Ms Cameron underlined the strong commitment to partnership working in NA. The plan had been updated to ensure the future strategic direction was clear. A Children's Executive Group had been established in 2020 to take forward focused work at pace and ensure operational governance and clear messaging and priorities in relation to improvement workstreams. The Partnership had undertaken a self-assessment of key areas of activity, such as delivering the Promise and Transitions, to ensure a focused approach to drive forward this work, and this will be reflected in the next performance report.

Outcome: Board Members noted and were encouraged and uplifted by the positive work being done and achievements across the three Ayrshire HSCPs, in spite of the challenges of the pandemic.

10. Decision/Approval

10.1 British Sign Language (BSL) local plan 2018-2024 (152/2021)

The Equality and Diversity Project Manager, Ms Elaine Savory, presented the draft written English version of the BSL local plan 2018-2024 mid-term report, as required by the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015. Following approval, the plan will be produced in BSL and published on the Board's website by the end of October 2021.

Ms Savory outlined the background and context to development of the plan in 2018; progress to meet the ten long term goals to promote and facilitate the promotion of BSL in Ayrshire; and planned actions over the next three years. Ms Savory advised that the COVID-19 pandemic had presented challenges in engaging with the BSL deaf community. Some of the actions previously planned had to be postponed and these will be taken forward in the coming years. Due to the shared nature of the report, work undertaken by NHSAA was outlined, as well as activity being progressed by partners involved and future actions planned.

Ms Savory highlighted that to keep the BSL community up-to-date with changes during the pandemic, the Board had rapidly produced BSL videos and shared these through websites and social media.

Ms Savory advised, in response to a question from a Board Member, that as this was a joint plan, partners were at different stages of purchasing VRI technology. NHSAA had been gifted 137 iPads from Healthcare Improvement Scotland to support virtual visiting and BSL software was being downloaded to some of these iPads. Consideration was being given to where these iPads should be sited to ensure that if a BSL interpreter was not available or not booked, remote access could be available to support the deaf community.

Board Members acknowledged the achievements to progress this important work in spite of the pandemic, which demonstrated the Board's strong commitment to promote BSL. However, it was acknowledged that there was still further work to be done. The Interim Chief Executive highlighted the important role of the Corporate Equalities Group to consider the detail and champion BSL activity. In addition, as the Board continued to use personal protective equipment, such as face masks, it will be important to find ways to enable effective communication with patients, families and staff.

Outcome: Board Members approved the BSL local plan 2018-2024 mid-term report for publication. Board Members looked forward to receiving future progress updates, including any potential barriers in taking forward this important work.

11. For information

11.1 Board briefing (153/2021)

Board Members noted the content of the briefing.

11.2 East Ayrshire Integration Joint Board (154/2021)

Board Members noted the minute of the meeting held on 16 June 2021.

11.3 North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board (155/2021)

Board Members noted the minutes of the meetings held on 17 June 2021 and 26 August 2021.

11.4 South Ayrshire Integration Joint Board (156/2021)

Board Members noted the minute of the meeting held on 23 June 2021.


12. Any Other Competent Business (157/2021)

There was no other business.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NHS Ayrshire & Arran Board will take place at 9.30 am on Monday 29 November 2021.

Signed by the Chair:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lesley M Bowie", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

29 November 2021

Lesley Bowie
Chair – Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board