

Board Meeting 22.06.22
Item 12.3.1
Purpose: Information

NHS WESTERN ISLES

Area Clinical Forum Meeting

Tuesday, 29th March 2022

11.00 – 12.00

Via Microsoft Teams

Member Present:

Dr Dave Rigby – Chair (Chair ADTC) Dana Murray (Employee Director); Karen France (Chair of Allied Health Professions Committee) Joel Briggs; Natalie Bowling (Chair of the Area Pharmaceutical Committee); Mr Sridhar Kalvakuntla (Area Dental Committee); Mr Ian Rough (Area Optical Committee); Dr Maggie Watts; Dr Frank McAuley;

Apologies: Dr Lise Hertel; Rosemary MacRitchie; Dr Brian Michie (Interim Chair of Area Medical Committee);

Miss Ann McHale – Admin Support

Point	Discussion	Action
1. Welcome/Apologies	Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Rosemary MacRitchie, and Dr Lise Hertel	
2. Intimation of AOCB	There were no items raised.	
3. Approval of minute of 25th January 2022	The minutes were reviewed and approved as a true reflection of the meeting.	
4. Matters Arising	These will be taken within the agenda.	
5. Sub-Committee Updates:		

a. Allied Health Professions Committee	Karen advised that the last AHP meeting was cancelled, AHP like many other departments has been affected by staff absences; no update this month.	
b. Area Pharmaceutical Committee	Natalie said that there had been no APC meeting; the only update was that the job for the tech apprenticeship has gone live and will be split between community and hospital and from September we will have two technicians and within the next two and half years we should have two new technicians in place. No other update.	
c. Area Nursing and Midwifery Consultative Committee	No update from ANAMAC	
d. Area Dental Committee	<p>Dave advised that Mr McIntosh from Barra Dental Clinic had sent a letter to the ACF regarding Variation in Dental practice. Dave asked if Sridhar would like to provide an update; Sridhar advised that the Southern Isles have the same issues as mentioned in the last meeting, these being sedation; the dental hub and orthodontics. Sridhar did wonder if it would be a good idea for a meeting to be set up with the Southern Isles to discuss these issues together with other concerns; Sridhar feels these are more about personnel and not ADC he feels that someone should have a meeting with them to look into their concerns.</p> <p>Frank thanked Sridhar for his update and also Mr McIntosh for his letter. Frank had submitted a response to ACF in reply to Mr McIntosh's letter. Frank also mentioned that the issues raised by the dentists in the Southern Isles should be highlighted to the Board for their opinion.</p> <p>Frank agreed that the main concerns were the dental hub; Frank was pleased to advise that we expect the tender for this to be awarded imminently, unfortunately this was delayed due to</p>	

	<p>Covid. The anticipated opening for the Southern Isles dental hub is autumn of this year; this will provide a 4 chair dental hub for the Uists and Benbecula. Frank gave a brief overview of the Hub. The other issues are sedation and orthodontics. Frank advised that there is clear disparity in the availability and the amount of orthodontic/sedation being carried out by the North and South of the Sound of Harris where there is a much larger population.</p> <p>Frank advised that there is an ongoing review in to the sedation and concerns that he has raised around the control of substances such as nitrous oxide and is awaiting a response from Mr McIntosh or Barra Dental Practice regarding the nitrous oxide with regard to COSHH and safety.</p> <p>Frank suggested that Dave, as Chair of ACF should raise the concerns of the Southern Isles to the Board highlighting their dissatisfaction.</p>	
e. Area Medical Committee	<p>There is no update from Dr Michie today; Dave advised that one of the main topics discussed at the Area Medical Committee was the sustainability and recruitment of GPs.</p> <p>Dave mentioned that Kate Dawson had prepared an audit of GPs currently here on the Islands and the number we have reaching retirement age within the next 5 years; this is an ongoing issue for sustainability across all the island practices.</p> <p>Frank advised that he had been working on an SBAR relating to the sustainability of GPs services with Michelle Taylor, the SBAR is almost finalised and will be ready to be shared shortly.</p>	

	<p>Another area of discussion was IT and upgrades to equipment. Maggie advised that they now have additional technicians to support the with upgrading of IT equipment.</p>	
f. Biochemistry Committee	<p>Joel gave an update advising that he has had two resignations (both band 7s; POC Lead and Blood Transfusion Lead) which will cause some short term issues, but he is working on a long term plan, looking at reorganisation within the labs.</p> <p>We have two vacancies, which closed on Friday the blood science had 23 applications with only one was suitable; we had 18 applications for microbiology but there was none suitable.</p> <p>Services will be quite tight for the short term but we will carry on as best we can.</p> <p>In respect of Covid testing we are quite stable at the moment and waiting to see what is happening nationally looks like more POC testing rather than PCR.</p> <p>Joel advised that the National LIMs has now been awarded and is currently at the procurement stage. There was nothing further to update.</p> <p>Frank asked whether this is the same system that is being used in Highland, Joel confirmed that it was not.</p>	
g. Staff Side Update	<p>Dana said that the themes are the same across all departments - mileage rates that are paid for community staff and the rising cost of fuel staff are getting quite concerned at this. This is something that will be taken to APF.</p>	

	No other update.	
h. Digital Health and Care Board	Maggie mentioned that Primary Care and Projects were discussed at the Digital Health and Care Board and we are looking at ways to take these projects forward. Maggie hopes to have more of an update next month.	
i. Area Optical Committee	<p>Ian had emailed Dave as Chair of the ACF regarding Optical Services on Barra; Service funding; limited capacity and a request for better GP communication and triage; and finally access to transport for housebound patients.</p> <p>Ian advised that he is the Optical Committee Lead for the Islands; the committee had met recently and Ian said that there is a need for consistency in that other national committees seem to get funding for attendance at the national meetings apart from the optical. Ian was keen to hear whether anyone received any additional support and funding, Ian would like to go back to Scottish Government stating this is what our colleagues are receiving why is there no additional support for Optical Clinician attendance.</p> <p>There are plans to get the optical facility on Barra sorted and this is ongoing; the Board is supporting this. Ian said that it might be a Health Board facility that we are able to use which would be a first across Scotland.</p> <p>Ian then advised that Aberdeen opticians get an additional £60 per patient compared to what we are getting for doing the same emergency work. There has been discussions and the Board was looking for us to provide a diabetic screening service without</p>	

	<p>additional funding, we have had to decline this, as it is not sustainable.</p> <p>Ian advised that we are having capacity issues with 3 opticians off over the last few weeks due to Covid, we have been requested to provide home services; this is not something that we can provide Ian asked if there is any chance that the patient could be given access to transport to the practice for assessment. Ian would like some support from the Board, we have had to deal with very abusive calls from due to the lack of transport for patients and this is not something that they want. We are not contracted to provide assistance within the hospital.</p> <p>Ian said that they are keen to have a pathway for headaches; we would like to know where this sits within the pathway. We are now getting patients off-loading all their medical problems without us having any medical background history on the patient, Ian feels that there should be a better triage and the emergency care summary for patients. There is limited access to GPs.</p> <p>Dave said it would be really good to get a consistent approach for referrals and there is a need to sit down together to work through a pathway. Ian gave an example of a referral that he had received and the need for a better way to deal with these.</p> <p>Dave will arrange a meeting.</p> <p>Natalie said that there is quite a lot of support Nationally and in terms of succession and training, we get a lot of funding from NES.</p>	
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	<p>Ian wondered whether there was any funding available for locum working, Natalie said that there was not any additional funding for locums.</p> <p>Maggie advised that Christina had a conversation regarding the diabetic screening and it would be helpful to have discussions around this. Ian will speak with Optometry Scotland.</p> <p>Dave asked about transport is there anything that we can do locally, Frank said that he would raise the question and have discussions and then advise. Ian said that he was not talking about large numbers, probably only about 10/12 patients per year.</p> <p>Frank said another question would be whether the transport needed to be a Scottish Ambulance or could it be a taxi?</p> <p>Dave will set something up regarding the pathway, Maggie will pick up the screening</p> <p>Dave will highlight this to the Board.</p> <p>Ian also wanted to know if there were any local strategies that are working well and if so if he could be made aware of these so that we could use them.</p>	
6. Items to be taken to next Board Meeting	Dave will highlight the issues regarding the dental variation in the Southern Isles. Dave will also highlight the concerns from the Optical Committee	
7. Correspondence	Letter received from Mr McIntosh, letter received from Dr Francis McAuley	

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8. AOCB	No items were raised	
9. Date and time for next meeting	26 th March 2022 at 11am via MS Teams	