

NHS WESTERN ISLES

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING
30 AUGUST 2023
HELD AT 10.30AM
VACCINATION CENTRE,
WESTERN ISLES HOSPITAL



Members Present:

Jane Bain	Employee Director / Non-Executive Director	Gillian McCannon	Board Chair (Meeting Chair)
Debbie Bozkurt	Director of Finance and Procurement	Jocelyn McConnachie	Non-Executive Director (link via Teams)
Julia Higginbottom	Non-Executive Director	Paul Steele	Non-Executive Director
Gordon Jamieson	Chief Executive	Annetta Smith	Non-Executive Director
Karen France MacLeod	Chair of ACF / Non-Executive Director	Maggie Watts	Director of Public Health
Fiona C. MacKenzie	Nurse / AHP Director and Chief Operating Officer	Sheena Wright	Whistleblowing Champion & Non-Executive Director (link via Teams)
Francis McAuley	Medical Director		

In Attendance:

Diane MacDonald	Head of Human Resources
Maggie Jamieson	Head of Communications, Claims and Patient Information
Michelle McPhail	Corporate Business Manager

1. WELCOME

The Chair, welcomed everyone to the hybrid meeting, special welcome was noted to the newly appointed Non-Executive Director, Naomi MacDonald.

2. APOLOGIES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nick Fayers

Chief Officer, Integration Joint Board

It was noted that Fiona MacKenzie and Jocelyn McConnachie would be arriving later.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 Chair's Report

The Chair provided an update on:

1. Ministerial Task Force sub groups have met, once for the Cultural group and once for the Attraction Group. The Task Force, also has two other sub-groups Education and Development Group and Wellbeing Group and all the sub-groups have a clear governance framework directly reporting to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.
2. Listening Project Group have established an on-line survey asking nurses and midwives seeking their views and suggestions on working within the NHS. To date 1800 responses have been received, and advised that the survey is open until the 18th of September 2023. Maggie Jamieson has circulated the advert to all staff and the survey link.
3. Blueprint for Good Governance survey will be rolled out soon with the development sessions taking place in the autumn.

Decision: Board Members formally noted the verbal update.

Action: No actions required.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members did not declare of any conflict(s) with the agenda items, in relation to them having a conflict of interests.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Minute of 28.06.23 - DA

Board Members approved the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2023 as a correct note of the discussion. The Chair remarked on the robust discussion which took place.

Decision: The Board formally approved the Minute of the meeting of 28 June 2023.

Action: No action required.

5.2 Matters arising from previous Minutes

No matters arising were raised.

5.3 Action Points

The Chair advised Members that the actions points had been reviewed and updated appropriately.

- ✚ **26.10.22 7.3 Performance Monitoring Report** – Seeking DNA information. The Chair advised that as Ms. MacKenzie was not present an update should be obtained from her for the next meeting. **UPDATE**
- ✚ **30.11.22 6.1 Finance Performance** – seeking update on the work with Psychiatry to reduce the financial expenditure. As Mr. Fayers was not present an update is required for the next meeting. **UPDATE**
- ✚ **30.11.23 8.3 – Winter Planning Checklist** – It was noted that within Scottish Government development Winter Planning will form part of the Annual Delivery Plan. **REMOVE**
- ✚ **22.02.23 7.1 Corporate Risk Register** – Noted as part of the review of the Register within the September development session. **UPDATE**
- ✚ **22.02.23 10.3 Climate Emergency & Sustainability Report 2021/22** - Noted as part of the September development session. **UPDATE**
- ✚ **29.03.23 38.2 Performance Monitoring** – additional detail required in the improvement plan, a Nil response is not acceptable, more detail. Update should be noted in the October presentation of the Plan. **UPDATE**

Mr. Jamieson provided Members with an update on performance. The ADP Annual Delivery Plan is waiting to be signed off for 23/24, however the data we are measured by are the measurers set pre-pandemic and these are not truly a reflection on the areas that the Board should be focussing on. The ADP is the Boards agreement with Scottish Government in relation to its delivery, however the ADP is more focussed on weekly and monthly performance for operational purposes. Therefore the baseline for achievement is based on the activity prior to the pandemic and therefore the review against those target now are not necessarily appropriate.

Mr. Jamieson advised that he has met with colleagues within Health Intelligence to obtain more appropriate reporting timeframes, which may mean that operationally information is available every two weeks to enable action to be taken to address areas of low performance. However it was noted that these reports will not necessarily be available to Board Members but the information may support the reports which do come forward.

- ✚ **28.06.23 3.2 Cancer Service Update** – On the agenda for discussion **REMOVE**
- ✚ **28.06.23 7.2 Financial Budget 23/24** - Present population demographic. On the agenda for discussion. **REMOVE**
- ✚ **28.06.23 9.2 Childcare Provision – An Cotan** - Update Board Members on progress. On the agenda for discussion. **REMOVE**

Decision: The Board formally noted the updates.

Action: No action required.

6. INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Employee Assistance Programme & Employee Wellbeing

Issue: *The Board was presented with a power point presentation from Dianne MacDonald, Interim Head of Human Resources and Stuart King, Organisational Development & Learning Manager.*

Discussion: The Chair advised Members that as part of showcasing the good work on innovation, regular items will be presented to the meetings. The Chair introduced Diane MacDonald, Interim Head of HR and Stuart King, Organisational Development & Learning Manager. The presentation will be advising on the progress of support staff and ensuring their wellbeing.

A power point presentation was made raising awareness on the work underway to support staff in a variety of different ways:

- ❖ Focus on wellbeing ~ holistic approach to employee health and wellbeing. Considering the following points:
 - Good working environment
 - good line management
 - positive working relationships
 - Physical and mental health
 - Financial wellbeing – supporting staff with fair pay, retirement planning
 - Compassionate leadership
 - Confidential support for staff, including mental health support.
- ❖ Listening to Staff which is the catalyst for initiatives and changes which are driven by both qualitative and quantitative data.
- ❖ Supporting sickness absence and reviewing the workforce gender
- ❖ Support programme on women's health
- ❖ Creating a culture of civility
- ❖ Employee Assistance Programme ~ access to a wellbeing portal which supports staff in many aspects from general wellbeing to sleep, financial balance, depressions, women and men's health.
- ❖ HR drop-in sessions available to Managers to obtain support and share experiences.
- ❖ Women's Health ~ the majority of the workforce are women, and the Boards compliance with the implementation of the Once for Scotland Menopause and Menstrual Health Workplace Policy.

The Chair thanked Mrs MacDonald and Mr. King for their very informative presentation, specifically noting the importance of collaborative working with different people to ensure that the workplace is a safe and exemplary employer to encourage people to come and work with us.

The Chief Executive, Gordon Jamieson. Made an observation that the work is central to the Boards ability to recruit people and specifically professionals to aid the Boards ability to deliver services. The Board needs to identify itself as being better than other organisations to promote what we do, how we support staff, good employment rights, and in general a good place to be.

Sheena Wright acknowledged the aspect that there is no one measure that will make the organisation a good employer and supports staff, it's a myriad of pieces of work, as noted in the presentation. Demonstrating that there is a positive culture within the Board is extremely important. Diane MacDonald advised that she will be asking Sheena Wright, as Whistleblowing Champion, to one of the Manager Drop-in sessions or Wellbeing sessions to provide an overview of Whistleblowing for staff.

The Chair remarked that the work on Civility Saves Lives is crucial and the outcomes were raised within the Sturrock Report in 2019 relating to allegations of bullying and harassment. The Chair enquired if there is any work being undertaken or raising awareness she would like to be involved to support the staff in getting the message out. Diane MacDonald accepted her offer.

The Chair reflected on an earlier comment in relation to 25% of staff don't access their email system, and therefore don't have the opportunity to access or understanding of the work being carried out or all this information is noted and available with the Boards Team Brief. We need to encourage as many staff as possible to access information electronically.

Karen France MacLeod commented on the iMatters information which denotes the Wellbeing Scores and can we assess ourselves against peers.

Stuart King advised that all the Board scores will be accessible around November 2023 and it will be then that the Board can ascertain its development in line with all NHS Boards in Scotland.

Board Members thanked Diane MacDonald and Stuart King for their presentation.

Decision: The Board formally noted the presentation.

Action: No actions required.

7. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

7.1 Financial Performance Monitoring Report Month 3 (June'23)

7.1.1 Appendix 1 – Narrative Report

Issue: *The Board was asked to note the verbal update provided by Ms. Debbie Bozkurt, Director of Finance and Procurement.*

Discussion: Debbie Bozkurt provided the financial information for the period ending June 2023, which formulates the information submitted to the Scottish Government in early July 2023.

As at 30 June 2023, the Board is showing an in-year overspend of £536k with a project year-end overspend of £2m. The position is as a result of some uncertainty that the Scottish Government will be fully funding the pay award which also has an impact with the Service Level Agreement the Board has with other NHS Boards.

Cost pressures are similar to those previous reported to colleagues, that being within agency / locum use, as there are 53% of vacancies which locums are supporting the delivery of services. The cost pressures were noted in GP OOH, Acute Nursing and Patient Travel.

Ms. Bozkurt drew colleagues' attention to the table noted at 1.5 which advises of the funding gap that is associated with the increase cost in delivering services to those aged 65+ up to 75+. The report shows a £5.3 gap over and above the inflation uplift which can be attributed to demographic change over the last 12 years.

As the Board is aware it is anticipated that the installation of the Water Tanks is imminent, however the continuation of the water tap and shower head filters is costing £300k per year and these will be required to be kept in place until the end of the financial year.

The Chair welcomed the recent news that the Board will be obtaining an MRI Scanner to support the diagnostic of patients throughout the islands. The Chair, on behalf of the Board Members expressed her thanks to all the Executive Directors and all staff who were involved in the business case.

In relation to the scope washers, it was noted that the cost of purchasing the equipment will be between £150k and £200k. This is currently included in the overall overspend.

Fiona MacKenzie arrived at the meeting.

The Chair enquired as to what the financial position is in relation to the Vaccination Plan which is currently higher than funded, with an anticipated additional impact of £200k.

Ms. Bozkurt clarified that further work with Fiona MacKenzie and Cathy Anderson has resulted in the gap being reduced to the funded level.

The Chair thanked Ms. Bozkurt for the detailed report.

Decision: The Board formally noted the report.

Action: No actions required.

8. PERFORMANCE

8.1 Corporate Risk Register – June 2023

8.1.1 Appendix A – CRR Detailed Report

Issue: *The Board was asked to note for assurance the report presented by Fiona MacKenzie, Nurse / AHP Director and Chief Operating Officer.*

Discussion: Fiona MacKenzie presented the report, noting the detailed narrative in relation to the risks which have been reviewed. It was noted with the development of the Annual Delivery Planning and the Winter Plan elements of the actions may assist in reducing the scoring levels of the risk on the register.

Water Tank installation is due to commence next week. It is currently planned to have one water shut off over night.

The Chair, reviewing the register, enquired if the delayed discharges had increased as a direct result of the endoscopy washers. Ms. MacKenzie acknowledged that this was the case, including the issue when the Highlands and Islands Airport Ltd (HAIL) strikes were on, the endoscopist was unable to come to the island, which did result in a number of people having to wait slightly longer.

The target for the 62 day cancer wait, was noted by Members. Ms. MacKenzie advised that the diagnostic testing is reliant on NHS Highland. A meeting is being arranged with colleagues in Raigmore Hospital to discuss Urology to explore further the possibility of the Board purchasing a piece of equipment that would aid in the diagnostic process. Any urgent suspicion of cancer or urgent referrals the clinicians are trying to accommodate these within Raigmore Hospital.

Decision: The Board formally noted the report.

Action: No actions required.

9. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

9.1 Public Protection Service Annual Report

9.1.1 Appendix 1 – Narrative Report

Issue: *The Board was asked to note for information the report presented by Fiona Mackenzie, Nurse / AHP Director and Chief Operating Officer.*

Discussion: The report was presented to Members by the Nurse / AHP Director, Fiona MacKenzie. The report was produced by Dorothy MacDonald Lead Nurse Public Protection, providing detail as to the activities and work in Public Protection.

Members noted the detail presentation from Ms. MacKenzie, noting the service for adult and child protection is supported by a multi-agency multi-disciplinary service assessing and overseeing the key public protection activities, managing risk, looking at learning and development as well as engaging in joint inspections of adult services.

The purpose of the report is for the Board to be assured that no act or omission by the organisation or that of its staff, irrespective of where they work, put a child, young person or adult inadvertently at risk and therefore must ensure that systems which underpin this responsibility are firmly embedded across the organisation.

The Chair thanked both Mrs. MacKenzie and Dorothy MacDonald, Lead Nurse for Public Protection, for the very positive detailed report.

The Chair made some suggestions for consideration, but not requiring a response now:

- The Improvement Plan have end dates noted to support a monitoring process;
- To provide governance assurance in relation to appropriate data sharing, potentially consider the information being held on an electronic system to provide access to the relevant information in a timely manner; and
- Establish a clear direction within the Clinical pathways.

Dr. Watts updated Members on the digital aspect of the discussion, noting that a joint system was establish, a decision tree with 3 events being the trigger raising concern. However at the time, the staff across sectors noted that this was not something they wished to use. This may now be the right time to re-establish such a system, in conjunction with staff to support and protect vulnerable people.

The Chair thanked everyone for their input into the discussion.

Decision: **The Board formally noted the report.**

Action: **No actions required.**

9.2 Childcare Provision – An Cotan

Issue: *The Board was asked to note the verbal update from Gordon Jamieson, Chief Executive.*

Discussion: Gordon Jamieson provided the report to Members, noting the progress to date on the Boards decision made on the 31st of May 2023, to declare its interest in becoming an alternative provider of nursery / childcare at An Cotan.

Mr. Jamieson noted that the position has not changed, however there was a requirement to obtain King's Council legal advice on the interpretation of the Act and further approach to Scottish Government to understand their position. Once a response has been obtained from Scottish Government the Board will be informed, along with options for consideration.

Mr. Jamieson noted that since the previous discussion, the nursery has now closed and staff have obtained other jobs or trying to find new jobs. The children has been dispatched to other locations or parents seeking the support of other family members. The position of securing child care services will still be a factor in the Board being able to secure recruitment and retention of staff.

Board Members agreed to provide delegated authority to the Chief Executive to continue identify a way forward.

Decision: **The Board formally noted the report.**

Action: **Update from the Chief Executive once further information is available.**

9.3 Effect of Demographic Change on the Western Isles

9.3.1 Appendix 1 – Narrative Report

Issue: *The Board was asked to note the report presented by Debbie Bozkurt, Director of Finance and Procurement.*

Discussion: Debbie Bozkurt presented the detailed report as well as providing a power point presentation to Members detailing the effects of demographic change has on the Islands and the delivery of NHS services. The data noted in the presentation is from the National Officer for Statistic.

It was noted that the issues are not for any one island organisation to address but requires partnership approach with the support from the Scottish Government.

The Chair thanked Ms. Bozkurt for the very informative comprehensive presentation, noting that the issue does not affects the Board or the Local Authority but the challenge is seen across the islands within small business, shops and hotels. However there is a need to attract more people of working age and support the younger people to stay on the islands.

Jocelyn McConnachie entered the meeting.

Ms. Bozkurt advised that, in trying to understand the demographic issue, the Local Authority commissioned a report 15 years ago which detailed the issues, and the consequences if no action was taken. The projected position by 2022 has now come to fruition.

It was noted that when people work on the islands and then come to retire, they take the decision then to leave to move to or move back to the mainland. At the same time there are a significant number of people who come to the islands to retire. So the actual number of people living on the islands may be the same, but it's those able to work or who wish to work which is the real issue to ensure that the islands can maintain production and service delivery across all sectors.

Dr. Watts advised that she is the Chair of the Sustainable Population Group, a sub-committee of the Community Planning Partnership, working on the 2002 report. A Plan was established at that time, looking at recruitment, attraction to the Islands, improvement in transport links, good childcare and encouraging businesses. The cost of addressing this piece of work was approximately £50,000, however the money could not be raised locally or centrally funded. This brought the work to a halt.

Dr. Watts noted, the NHS is an Anchor Organisation and it needs to find the funding to support the work and consider refreshing the Plan, which is still relevant.

In considering what the Board should do as next steps, the Chair noted the comment from Maggie Jamieson to consider advertising on TV, attracting people to the islands, having a clear message, clear branding which becomes familiar each time people see it, noting the job opportunities, housing and lifestyle opportunities.

The Chief Executive welcomed the breadth of discussion and noting the enthusiasm to find a solution and the willingness to support and be involved in, is exciting. The situation is the most important issue for the islands, which if not addressed could bring the Boards ability to deliver services into view. However, the position is now beyond the collective capabilities of local organisations and people and requires external partnership support from political and investment partnership. The solution lies more in what investment can come from renewables, what can be taken through by the Convention of the Highlands and Islands, where there is Ministerial attention and participation, which will be the key driver.

Board Members deliberated the issue in detail, noting the need to establish a piece of research, to provide a holistic understanding of what the evidence basis tells us about the overall issues, and may also advise on areas not currently known or considered.

Cllr. Steele explained that the size of the issue is complex, It's not one thing that needs to be fixed noted that he would raise the report within the Community Planning Partnership group and the Convention of the Highlands and Islands

Members agreed that the following points should be taken forward:

- Influencing the issues with Scottish Government where ever possible, for example at National Chief Executive and National Board Chairs meetings.
- Individual organisations within the Community Planning Partnership to take forward the issue within their own organisations as well as collectively
- Agreed that Paul Steele, who is the Chair of CPP and a Member of the CoHI would ensure that the issue is raised in both groups, and the presentation will be noted at the next CPP.

The Chair expressed her thanks to colleagues for the extensive detailed debate on the issues facing the Board in light of the demographic island issues.

Decision: The Board formally noted the report.

Action:

1. Present the information to the next Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership - Debbie Bozkurt, Director of Finance and Procurement – agreement from Paul Steele, Chair of the OHCPP & NHSWI NXD.
2. Raise the issues of population demographics with the Convention of the Highlands and Islands – taken forward by Paul Steele
3. It was noted that following the presentation to the OHCPP, Paul Steele will propose a formal letter is sent to Scottish Government Ministers raising awareness and seeking action.

Lunch break 30 minutes

10. STAFF GOVERNANCE

10.1 Human Resources Workforce Report June '23

10.1.1 Appendix 1 – Narrative Report

Issue: *The Board was asked to note the report presented by Diane MacDonald, Interim Head of Human Resources.*

Discussion: Diane MacDonald drew colleagues' attention to the report highlighting the following points:

- ❖ **Workforce** numbers remain stable with the age profile continuing to be skewed to over 40. Three year analysis shows NHS Western Isles is attracting more younger people into the workforce than in previous years.
- ❖ An NHS Scotland **Retire & Return policy** has been agreed which provides greater options for staff returning to work following retirement. All staff have been informed of this policy and a briefing session has been delivered for managers to explain how it should be implemented. There have been 16 accepted applications for retire and return in total.
- ❖ **Overtime** by roster area shows there were 226 overtime hours in the month of June.
- ❖ **Sickness absence** continued through the winter at between 6% and 7% but has dipped to under 6 % from February onwards. Absence in June was 5.85%. The greatest reason for sickness absence in June 2023 continues to be Anxiety/Stress/Depression/Other Psychiatric Illness but has reduced from 524 days absence in December of 371 days in June. All are being actively managed and

employees supported appropriately. Covid absence (sickness and special leave) reduced to 106 days and is less than the peak in March of 465 days.

- ❖ **Recruitment** has seen a significant increase in applications due to a high volume from overseas candidates. Notable successful recruitment in June was Head of IT and two electricians (posts had been to advert on multiple occasions). There was also a very successful campaign of recruiting summer students. This helps us develop relationships with students in the local area who may consider permanent employment when they complete their studies.
- ❖ Actions taken to enhance recruitment include the following:
 - Successful recruitment campaign for Rural GP's.
 - Recruitment campaign underway for Consultant vacancies. This includes full page BMJ advert, BMJ enhanced online listings and accompanying communications.
 - Advertising vacancies with a local recruitment market in the local press.
 - Marketing benefits of working for NHS Western Isles in terms of leave, pension, flexible working and pay enhancements.
 - Using social media to maximise reach and use of different advertising methods.
 - Use of recruitment and retention premia where appropriate. Applications have now been agreed for Podiatry and Catering.
 - International recruitment of one Radiographer. Currently exploring international recruitment options for AHP's.
 - Advertisement of apprenticeships in Business Admin, IT and Catering. A Catering apprentice has been appointed.
 - Requests for key worker housing from Hebridean Housing Partnership.

The Chair thanked Mrs. MacDonald for the report, reflecting that the information would have been reported, with continuous detailed monitoring, at the Staff Governance Committee.

Decision: The Board formally noted the report.

Action: No actions required.

11. CLINICAL GOVERNANCE

11.1 Oncology Service update

Issue: *The Board was asked to note the report presented by Dr. Francis McAuley, Medical Director.*

Discussion: Dr. McAuley provided a verbal update on the provision of Gastrointestinal Oncology service provided by NHS Highland, under a Service Level Agreement, following the only Consultant within the clinical speciality having left NHS Highland.

Dr. McAuley was pleased to report that NHS Highland have been able to obtain Locum support from NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to enable the service to be delivered, with minimal impact on Western Isles residents.

Normal service is being delivered, however the 62 day cancer target is not being achieved and is not being achieved nationally.

It was noted that the delivery of cancer drugs, chemotherapy and immunotherapy is causing a major issue nationally in part due to the inability to make the drugs. The combined drugs are made in a central location however the company is being hit by staffing and the expense of individual drugs, along with the ever increasing number of cancer drugs being approve by SIGN (Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network) and available on the market.

The Chair thanked Dr. McAuley for the comprehensive briefing.

Prof. Smith enquired about the detail of resource capacity seeking further clarification. Dr. McAuley advised that he was referring to pharmacy capacity which is currently at the maximum level with very little capacity to increase delivery of service nor the ability to provide more chemotherapy support. The delivery of high regulated service, as Chemotherapy requires not just the service and support of Pharmacy but also of the qualified Nurse to administrate the treatment.

Dr. McAuley advised that he is addressing this in conjunction with the Nurse Director.

The Chair advised that she meets regularly with the Chair of NHS Highland, Sarah Compton-Bishop, having a strategic discussion of what the service may look like and the challenges known. Meetings will continue to develop relationships and support.

As Board Chair, Mrs. McCannon, noted the level of reassurance obtained that a plan is in place and discussion at operational level continue.

Decision: **The Board formally noted the verbal update.**

Action: **No actions required.**

12. PUBLIC HEALTH

12.1 Influenza and Covid 19 Vaccination Programme 2023/24

12.1.1 Appendix 1 – Narrative Report

Issue: *The Board was asked to note the report presented by Dr. Maggie Watts, Director of Public Health.*

Discussion: Dr. Watts drew members' attention to report advising of the vaccination programme for 2023/24 for influenza and covid-19, which will protect the vulnerable groups within the island population.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have advised of the delivery of Covid-19 booster alongside the influenza vaccine, which can be delivered concurrently, and it is thought that co-administration will work to increase the uptake of both vaccines within the population.

Dr. Watts advised that Community nursing remains the mainstay of vaccinators in the community, with the School Nursing team leading on the education setting, Occupational Health leading on delivery to the health and social care cohort, and midwifery coordinating and delivering to all pregnant women. The plan is also supported by peer vaccinators, especially for the healthcare programme.

The Chair thanked Dr. Watts for the report, acknowledging the work of her team in ensuring that as many people obtain the vaccines to protect themselves and their families and community.

Decision: **The Board formally noted the progress report.**

Action: **No actions required.**

12.2 Sustainability

12.2.1 Appendix 1 – Narrative Report

Issue: *The Board was asked to note the report presented by Dr. Maggie Watts, Director of Public Health.*

Discussion: Dr. Watts presented to Board Members the Boards position statement on the Scottish Government Climate Emergency & Sustainability Strategy (2022-26), specifically discussing the deliverables within the 5 priority areas:

- Sustainable Buildings & Land
- Sustainable Travel
- Sustainable Goods & Services
- Sustainable Care
- Sustainable Communities

Dr. Watts advised that Members should consider requesting quarterly reports on the Boards progress against the national strategy.

Julia Higginbottom, as Sustainability Champion, noted that the work achieved to date is the starting point and as development moves forward the monitoring performance report will provide greater knowledge and understanding, specifically thanking Dr. Watts for the work to date.

Dr. McAuley advised that Nitro Oxide is one of the contributing gases to global warning. Scottish Government has directed that all NHS Boards should withdraw the supply of piped Nitro Oxide from all sites. Anaesthetist have been supportive of this direction.

One grey area is in the use of Entonox in Maternity services. There are very few alternatives available with the lowest level of risk to both Mother and baby. Entonox is readily available, is not restricted and available for use in labour in the Western Isles Hospital.

The Chair acknowledged the briefing by Dr. McAuley on the availability and continued use of Entonox with the assurance of the appropriate guidance and monitoring. Dr. Watts advised that this is noted on a working spreadsheet advising on which drugs and gases are available for use in NHS Western Isles.

Cllr. Steele noted that in achieving Climate Sustainability and NetZero, there should never be a blanket ban but understanding of the issue, the consequences of removal, available alternatives and then, and only then appropriate consideration is taken. However there will always be the need to follow Scottish Government Health Department directive within appropriate challenging metrics.

In considering the implications of alternative products, Dr. Watts explained that within the Western Isles Hospital new boilers have been installed with manufacturer guarantee for gas and oil. The boilers are the Board's biggest carbon issue in providing a heating system. The boilers could be used for biofuel but the guarantee would be invalid, and therefore the Board would not be covered for any warranty issues.

The Chair thanked Dr. Watts for the briefing.

Decision: The Board formally noted the report.

Action: Obtain regular quarterly reports on the Board performance against the National Strategy – early 2024
Lorraine Gillies

A future Board development session on Sustainability to be arranged.

12.3 Cancer Screening Report 2020/22

Issue: *The Board was asked to note the power point presentation from Dr. Maggie Watts, Director of Public Health.*

Discussion: The power point presentation made to Board Members, by Dr. Watts, advised on the 3 areas of screening - bowel, cervical and breast. The presentation provided a detailed report for the period of 2020 – 2022, noting the national delay in providing a screening service of 6 months due to the Pandemic.

The Chair remarked on the importance of screening in detecting as early as possible any irregularity and possible cancer. She wished to acknowledge the work of the sider screening team and thanked Dr. Watts for the informative presentation.

Decision: The Board formally noted the report.

Action: No actions required.

Maggie Jamieson & Naomi MacDonald left the meeting.

13. REPORT / APPROVED MINUTES FROM BOARD SUB COMMITTEES FOR NOTING

13.1 Healthcare Governance & Audit Committee

13.1.1 Healthcare Governance & Audit Committee Minute 24.05.23 - A

The Minute was presented for information.

Mrs. McConnachie advised that since the date of the meeting, the Board has approved its Annual Accounts and work continues with the External Auditors. Thanks was noted to Debbie Bozkurt and her team, and all the Directors for their work and support in achieving the break-even position.

No questions were raised.

Decision: The Board formally noted the reports.

Action: No actions required.

13.2 Area Partnership Forum

13.2.1 Area Partnership Forum Minute of 01.03.23 - A

The Minute was presented for information.

No questions were raised.

Decision: The Board formally noted the reports.

Action: No actions required.

13.3 Staff Governance Committee

13.3.1 Staff Governance Committee Minute 17.05.23 – A

The Minute was presented for information.

Prof. Smith noted that since the meeting, Board departments will have concluded their iMatter responses. Work continues on implementing Turas as the main learning system for the organisation.

Decision: The Board formally noted the reports.

Action: No actions required.

14. Invoking Standing Order 5.22 – Resolution to take items in closed session

Decision: Board Members agreed to hold a closed session discussion.

15. EVALUATION

	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Were you satisfied that the agenda items presented covered the current significant areas?	✓		
Was there sufficient time to review the papers between receipt and the meeting date?	✓		
Was there sufficient time allocated to all agenda items?	✓		
Were the Executive Summaries an accurate reflection of the detailed paper?	✓		
Were you able to reach a satisfactory conclusion from the information presented on each item?	✓		
Were you able to contribute to the discussions and have your views considered?	✓		
Did you consider that the Board discharged its duty in respect of			
• Proper scrutiny	✓		
• Relevant questioning	✓		
• Constructive challenging	✓		

13. DATES, TIMES & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Public Board Meetings

Date: 25 October 2023

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussion and brought the meeting to a close at 3:45pm.

END