

## 7. PERTH AND KINROSS HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP (HSCP) CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE ASSURANCE REPORT

There was submitted a report by Chief Officer (HSCP) (23/118) providing assurance to Perth and Kinross Council's Scrutiny and Performance Committee on the Clinical Care and Professional Governance of the Perth and Kinross HSCP.

In response to a question from Councillor W Robertson regarding workforce issues in several areas, K Ogilvy advised that there had been an increase in the number of agency workers across the partnership, especially in areas of nursing and social care to help reduce the gap but the Health and Social Care Partnership hoped that the use of agency workers would be a short-term solution. In response to a similar question from Councillor Brawn regarding the reasoning for staff shortages, K Ogilvy advised that workforce shortages are a national issue across Scotland which could be due to competition with neighbouring areas for staff in the medical sector. K Ogilvy advised that a workforce plan will be implemented to analyse key issues. It is important to ensure terms and conditions are competitive and clear career structures are in place.

In response to a question from Councillor A Forbes regarding the reduction in drug deaths in Perth and Kinross, K Ogilvy advised that there had been significant investment in substance use services. The Health and Social Care Partnership have also made several improvements, including implementing a non-fatal overdoses pathway, integrating the substance use team and implementing a multi-agency assessment and triage clinic which includes health, social work and the third sector. K Ogilvy added that as well as the redesign of services, there had been an increase in capacity due to additional funding from the Scottish Government. K Ogilvy confirmed that good practice had been shared with other Local Authorities.

In response to a question from Councillor E Drysdale regarding the increase in the number of unregistered patients trying to access the public dental service for unregistered care, K Ogilvy advised that public dental service covers the whole of Tayside and issues are more severe in other areas than Perth and Kinross. He added that work had been looked at nationally to help improve access to NHS dentists by increasing capacity. Locally, M Dickson highlighted the importance of making NHS Tayside aware of the risk around capacity. If dental practices decide to go private, patients would be entitled to temporarily access to the public dental service.

In response to a question from Councillor A Forbes regarding ongoing challenges with regards to the Lloyds pharmacy contract and issues with medication deliveries in prisons throughout Tayside, K Ogilvy advised that the issue had now been resolved and a preferred provider for the national contract had been provided which would be implemented shortly. K Ogilvy added that staff's time could have been better utilised, but no risk was involved in delivering services across Tayside.

The Convener suggested a briefing session be arranged on how the Health and Social Care operates for all members. Members thanked officers for their work.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 23/118, be scrutinised.
- (ii) The Committee agreed to the level of reasonable assurance provided.
- (ii) The level of reasonable assurance agreed by the Scrutiny and Performance Committee be reported to the IJB Audit and Performance Committee.