



PERTH AND KINROSS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

AUDIT & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

22 June 2020

PERTH AND KINROSS HSCP COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Report by Chief Officer (Report No. G/20/61)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides members of the Audit and Performance Committee with an update on the Health and Social Care Partnership's response to Covid-19 and the next phase of our planned activity.

1. BACKGROUND

Over the past three months, the HSCP's Executive Team has been working exclusively on our response to the Covid-19 pandemic; prioritising services; redeploying staff; delivering new approach; responding to emerging issues; and sustaining effective service delivery to our most vulnerable service users and patients.

I would wish to pay tribute to Perth and Kinross Council and NHS Tayside staff working in the HSCP during the most challenging time and to commend colleagues to the Audit and Performance Committee for their resilience, professionalism, adaptability and for the compassion and commitment they have shown to the people we support, during this time.

A detailed report of our preparation for and response to Covid-19 was presented to the IJB on 29th May and is available through the following link; [HSCP Covic-19 Pandemic Response - 29 May 2020](#)

This report provides the Audit and Performance Committee with an update on the earlier report to the IJB. In support of this, some key data and performance information is attached (appendix one) for Members' consideration.

2. PROPOSAL

Since reporting to the IJB last month, the HSCP has been working concurrently on several different activities, as we develop our response to the pandemic, in its next phase.

Covid's Continuing Impact

We are continuing to respond to the impact the pandemic is having on our inpatient and community health and care services, providing care and support to people affected by Covid-19, their families and carers. Thankfully, as a result of the effectiveness of the government's social interventions, we are seeing reduced prevalence of Covid-19. However, we cannot underestimate the impact of the pandemic on those that it directly affects, on their family members and carers. This is particularly the case in Care Homes for Older People, and we continue to direct significant activity towards supporting the sector with guidance, information and advice, clinical support and oversight, P.P.E. and significant increased testing of asymptomatic care home staff.

Retaining Capacity to Respond to a Second Surge

With the reduced prevalence of Covid-19 we are seeing the planned remobilisation of NHS acute services, of elective activity, outpatients and clinics. Similarly, the HSCP is considering which of our services can be remobilised. However, we are very sensitive to the potential for a second surge in Covid-19 and therefore our planning is taking account of the need to maintain capacity and to retain ability to respond swiftly, should this occur. This challenges us to not assume every service can be reinstated or can again be delivered in the same way as pre-Covid.

Responding to the 'New Normal'

By necessity, our planning is also taking full account of the continuing social interventions required of us by the UK and Scottish Governments. The limitations on physical contact and on travel, the effects of shielding and the potential impact that 'Protect and Test' might have on staff who will have to self-isolate are amongst the factors we are taking account of when planning service delivery.

Winter Planning

In addition, as we move into the Summer months, we are now planning for winter pressures. Recognising that the NHS's ability to meet increased demand in the winter months is critically influenced by the capacity in and responsiveness of community health and social care services, each year we plan for winter, in summer. However, it remains difficult to anticipate and plan this year, with uncertainty about the progression of the pandemic and what it will mean for us in six months' time.

Reviewing Plans and Ambitions

We commenced this year with a programme of work, outlined in a range of plans.

- Our **Strategic Commissioning Plan** set our strategic direction and our priorities and ambitions for the next five years.
- Our **Improvement Plan** articulated how we intended to address those areas for improvement identified in inspections, audits and self-evaluations.
- Our **Transformation Plan** set our ambition for reviewing and revising our service offer, by shifting the balance of care and delivering more effective services in a way that achieved best value and supported us towards financial balance.

The HSCP is now having to revisit our plans and strategies ‘through a Covid-19 lens’, taking account of the factors outlined above and reviewing whether they remain valid, relevant, achievable and perhaps even affordable, in the context of our response to Covid-19.

Committing significant effort, attention, resource and energy in response to Covid-19 has, understandably, prevented the HSCP from advancing the plans and work programmes that we had identified at the beginning of the year. It has also limited the progress that we have been able to make in respect of a number of developments that we will be reporting to the Audit and Performance Committee. The HSCP Executive Team would intend to bring forward revised plans and timescales, as well as further reports to future Committees.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Audit and Performance Committee is asked to:-

- Note the contents of this report and the summary data included in the accompanying appendix.

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