

# Core brief

## **Report from June meeting of the NHSGGC Board (1 July 2022, 5.45pm)**

The Board of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde met on Tuesday, 28 June. All the papers are available [here](#).

### **Chairman and Chief Executive's Reports**

NHSGGC Chairman, Professor John Brown CBE, introduced and welcomed new Board members to their first Board meeting, including five of the six new Councillors who had joined as stakeholder members. He also welcomed Diana Foy who was observing the meeting, ahead of her appointment as a new Board member from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The Chairman noted that NHSGGC had been de-escalated to Stage Two of the Performance Framework for issues relating to QEUH/RHC. He thanked staff and all those involved in delivering all the recommendations from various independent reviews into the hospitals which had led to the decision by the Scottish Government to move the Board from Stage Four to Stage Two.

The Chairman reported that he had been asked to perform the official opening of the museum at the GRI. He had also presented the South Sector Quality Improvement Awards, which took place in June and which included the prestigious Dame Denise Coia award.

Finally, Professor Brown paid tribute to Susan Manion who is retiring at the end of June. As a senior manager, initially as Chief Officer at East Dunbartonshire HSCP, and then as Director responsible for GP Out of Hours and with Public Health, Susan has managed a number of important issues for the Board and the Chairman wished her well in her retirement.

In the report from the Chief Executive, Mrs Jane Grant outlined the increasing challenges faced in relation to the current COVID situation across health and social care. She confirmed the appointment of Caroline Sinclair as Chief Officer for East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership. She also reported on a visit by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP, to the Beatson to officially open a new £3.6 million MRI scanner suite which was delivered in partnership with the Beatson Cancer Charity.

The Chief Executive also informed the Board that she had been invited to judge at the NHS Scotland event for the poster awards, which was inspiring in terms of content and what had been achieved.

## **Audit Scotland Annual Audit Report 2021-22**

Ms Liz McConachie presented Audit Scotland's Annual Audit Report 2021-22 for the Board and the Auditor General Scotland. This report comprises an audit of NHSGGC's annual report and accounts, and consideration of the NHS Board's:

- Financial management;
- Financial sustainability;
- Governance and transparency; and
- Value for money.

The report had previously been considered in full at the Audit and Risk Committee on 21 June 2022.

Ms McConechie reported that the audit opinions on the annual accounts are unmodified. The Board's financial statements have been prepared to a high standard and are supported by a comprehensive set of working papers.

The report noted that;

- NHSGGC operated within its Revenue and Capital Resource Limits.
- The financial impact of Covid-19 on the Health Board and its six Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) in 2021/22 was estimated to be £284 million.
- All Covid-19 costs incurred were funded by the Scottish Government on a non-recurring basis.

Questions were raised about the processes by which the Board would obtain assurance that earmarked reserves passed to the Integration Joint Boards for COVID expenditure in 2022/23 would be spent on COVID and on the potential impact of the pay negotiations, which are ongoing.

The Board noted the Audit Scotland report.

## **2021-22 Consolidated Annual Report and Accounts**

The Consolidated Annual Report and Accounts for 2021-22 were presented to the Board.

The Board agreed to adopt the Annual Report and Accounts which will now be submitted to the Scottish Government Health Directorates.

## **COVID-19 update**

Dr Emilia Crighton, Interim Director of Public Health, updated the Board on the overall position on our response to managing COVID-19.

The Board heard that the number of cases within NHSGGC hospitals has risen gradually in recent weeks, which mirrors the rise in community cases. As at 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022, there are 365 inpatients with a COVID diagnosis within the past 28 days, four of whom are being cared for in ICU. NHSGGC Chief Operating Officer, William Edwards noted that currently there are 10 wards closed as a result of COVID, meaning that 53 beds are currently unavailable. He also noted the high occupancy levels across NHSGGC, which collectively are above 95%.

Staff absence remains an issue, which is reflective of the rise in infection rates. Dr Crighton advised that support to staff with Long COVID has been expanded with support and monitoring through the

HR Support and Advice Unit. Guidance to assist in managing Long COVID is set to be issued to managers and staff. The guidance offers initial support via employee wellbeing calls when they first commence Long COVID absence.

Board members asked about the prevalence of COVID HAI and a discussion was undertaken about staff availability and the potential impact on wellbeing of staff and care of patients. Professor Angela Wallace, Nurse Director advised that NHSGGC is committed to have the right staff in the right place at the right time, but noted the challenges teams face to do this. She provided reassurance to Board members that the situation was monitored daily.

The Board thanked Dr Crighton and her public health team for their continued leadership and advice in responding to the pandemic.

Click [here](#) to read the Board Paper.

### **QEUH/RHC Update**

Chief Executive, Jane Grant, updated the Board on the position regarding a number of issues related to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH) and the Royal Hospital for Children (RHC).

In relation to the de-escalation of the Board, the Chief Executive noted that despite the challenges faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, all of the improvements identified in the 108 recommendations from the independent reviews, have been implemented and are currently being audited. Ms Grant informed the Board that the Autumn oral hearings for the Scottish Hospitals Public Inquiry have been postponed and we await confirmation of revised dates.

Click [here](#) to read the Board Paper.

### **HAI Report**

NHSGGC Nurse Director, Professor Angela Wallace informed Board members that NHSGGC continues to record a positive performance, with stable or improving results. Professor Wallace noted that this year's targets, as with all other Boards, have been rolled forward to next year.

The unannounced inspection undertaken at the QEUH by the Healthcare Improvement Scotland team in March concluded several areas of good practice along with positive feedback concerning leadership and infection control.

Professor Wallace informed Board members about the further inspection which is currently underway. Professor Wallace paid tribute to staff for their support during both visits and thanked them formally for their support.

Click [here](#) to read the Board Paper.

### **Staff Governance Committee – Annual Report**

Anne MacPherson, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, presented the annual report of the Staff Governance Committee for 2021/22. The purpose of the Committee is to provide reassurance to the Board that NHSGGC meets its obligations to the Staff Governance Standard, with the aim that all staff are:

- Well informed;
- Appropriately trained and developed;
- Involved in decisions;
- Treated fairly and consistently, with dignity and respect, in an environment where diversity is valued; and,
- Provided with a continuously improving and safe working environment, promoting the health and wellbeing of staff, patients and the wider community.

The Board heard about programmes of support for staff impacted by the pandemic, including those suffering from Long COVID and other initiatives such as the Mental Health Check-in, which saw a total of 4,308 surveys completed and, from those, 1,750 employees are receiving follow-up contact and support. The Board also heard about the Peer Support programme, which allows staff to better support each other, following initial training.

The Board also received updates on reviews of the NHSGGC Workforce Strategy 2020-2025, Workforce Equality, Medical Education, Staff Survey (iMatter), Safe Staffing, Whistleblowing and the Remuneration Committee.

Click [here](#) to read the Board Paper.

### **NHSGGC Public Health Screening Report 2020-2021**

Dr Emilia Crighton, Interim Director of Public Health, presented the annual Public Health Screening Report to the Board. Dr Crighton highlighted that following a pause to some screening programmes as a result of the pandemic and associated lockdowns, many programmes were now moving forward, with increased participation, although the report reflects the reduced activity carried out within the year. The recovery of the paused screening programmes is included in, and being monitored through, the NHSGGC Remobilisation Plan.

Click [here](#) to read the Board Paper.

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