

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	Paper No. 22/03
Paper Title	Standing Committee Chairs Board Report
Meeting:	Board Meeting
Date of Meeting:	22 February 2022
Purpose of Paper:	For Assurance
Classification:	Board Official
Name of Reporting Committee	Population Health and Well Being Committee
Date of Reporting Committee	19 January 2022
Committee Chairperson	Mr John Matthews OBE

1. Purpose of Paper:

The purpose of this paper is to inform the NHS Board on key items of discussion at NHS GGC Population Health and Well Being Committee.

2. Recommendation:

The Board is asked to note the key items of discussion at the recent meeting of the **Population Health and Well Being Committee** on **19 January 2022** as set out below and seek further assurance as required.

3. Key Items of Discussion noting purpose; Approval/Assurance/Awareness

3.1 COVID-19 Update

- Verbal update by the Director of Public Health for Awareness.
- The Committee noted there were challenges in recent weeks with the change in guidance for Test and Protect, Public Health teams and for staff understanding the guidance returning to work. Although rates

were reducing it remained a busy time for NHSGGC services and Public Health teams particularly responding to queries in care homes with increased outbreaks and additional challenges with visiting and admissions.

- The Committee were advised of the lower rate of infection identified in the over 65 years which was welcomed as they were the most at risk of severe disease or hospital admission.
- The Committee noted the verbal update and were assured by the work being undertaken.

3.2 Health in a Changing City: Glasgow 2021

- Presentation provided for Assurance.
- The Committee were advised that Glasgow's population had grown substantially in the last 15 years but with the strongest population growth in the least deprived parts of the city. COVID-19 had an impact with the thousands of deaths and hospitalisations in Scotland and was likely to exacerbate existing health inequalities. As Glasgow emerge from the pandemic the impact of recurrent deaths due to inequality would quickly surpass those due to COVID-19.
- The Committee noted that the report demonstrated the urgency for the Public Health team to focus on community planning and with national groups to influence change with both Scottish Government and UK Government.

3.3 Annual Report on Screening

- Paper presented for Assurance.
- The Committee were advised as the result of the COVID-19 Pandemic screening programmes for adults were paused on March 2020 with a phased remobilisation in late summer. Programmes had to adapt their delivery to take account for the changes of the way the service was delivered.
- The Committee noted the challenges with resuming the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) programme with access to clinics and the impact of social distancing. The capacity had now recovered and the trajectory indicated screening would be available to all those eligible by March 2022.

3.4 Water Fluoridation

- Paper presented for Assurance.
- The Committee were provided with a presentation, advising oral health inequalities persist in Greater Glasgow and Clyde despite improvements made from national oral health improvement programmes. Evidence had shown water fluoridation can reduce the social gradient and narrow the differences in dental disease between more and less deprived communities.

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- The Committee were advised of the strong scientific evidence for water fluoridation as a safe, cost-effective public health intervention. The Committee were asked to consider exploring the possibility of establishing a water fluoridation scheme and undertaking a technical feasibility study to inform this process, prior to wider public consultation.
- There was discussion around the timing of moving forward, questions on whether this should be a national approach and the need to ensure Scottish Government would be supportive of the Board starting a process to implement this.
- It was agreed the following action was to engage with the Chief Medical and Dental Officers, Public Health Scotland, Scottish Government and the other 13 Health Boards in Scotland to establish if it was on their agenda for a wider understanding of the level of support.

4. Issues for referral to other Standing Committees or escalation to the NHS Board:

There were no issues for referral to other Standing Committees or escalation to the NHS Board.

5. Date of Next Meeting:

13 April 2022 at 2.00pm