

Area Clinical Forum Report to Grampian NHS Board Meeting on the 13th of January 2021

Purpose of Report

This report updates the Grampian NHS Board on key issues arising from the Area Clinical Forum (ACF) meeting on the 13th of January 2021.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the following key points:

ACF/System Leadership Team (SLF) meeting

ACF members and SLT members met on the 11th of January in our 3 monthly forum to discuss realistic communication and health and wellbeing. This was again a useful forum for the two groups to meet and share ideas with a particular focus on how the ACF can support improvement work. Following this meeting we welcomed Stuart Humphries (Director of Marketing and Communications) and Tom Power (Director of People and Culture) to our meeting on the 13th January to continue discussion.

Operation Snowdrop

The ACF welcomed a short presentation from Adam Coldwells (Director of Strategy/Deputy Chief Executive) about Operation Snowdrop and the transition to level four contingencies. The members welcomed the plan to allow services to determine which activities were critical to continue in this phase of the pandemic, however it was felt that some guidance and clarity on this was required from the SLT to ensure that there was a consistent and robust approach. There was some concern from diagnostic services (within healthcare science) and their co-dependencies with a wide range of services and how decisions would be made regarding their ongoing activity.

Health and Wellbeing

As a key objective in Operation Snowdrop and a topic which is usually discussed within ACF meetings, health and wellbeing was again discussed. A member of ACF will join the health and wellbeing group following an invite from Tom Power. We hope to become a valuable addition to the group perhaps providing a different perspective on the discussion.

There was some concern raised by ACF members about the changes to the staff vaccination plan i.e. the move from a 4 week interval to a 12 week interval between doses. Concerns had already been raised to the SLT and since the meeting on the 13th an official response has been circulated to all staff explaining the situation in full. In addition some front line professions such as optometrists, dentists and community pharmacists had concerns around staff receiving the vaccine as most are not NHS staff but are providing NHS services and the process for them has not been as streamlined as for NHS staff. In the period since the ACF meeting issues appear to have resolved.

Communication

Following on from the SLT/ACF meeting on the 11th of January we continued the conversation around improving communication with all disciplines. There were a number of ideas for improvement in communication to staff and the public made at the meeting on the 11th and we look forward to seeing some changes as a result of this. Again ACF members are happy to be involved should the SLT require our further input.

Winter Surge Plan

The ACF welcomed Nick Fluck (Medical Director), Fiona Francey (Chief Officer, Acute) and Susan Harrold (Planning Manager, Winter/Surge Plan) to the meeting to outline the winter surge plan. Unfortunately the ACF were not involved in shaping the plan however it was well received and we are aware that is a moving plan to which we can still provide input.

Board Programme

The Board programme is a standing item on the ACF agenda to allow the forum to fulfil the role of providing clinical and professional advice to the SLT and Board on relevant topics. We look forward to planning our meetings in 2021 aligning with the new Board programme when it is available.

Kim Cruttenden
Area Clinical Forum Chair
January 2021