

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

BY SKYPE, 08 DECEMBER, 2021

Integration Joint Board Members:

Mrs R Atkinson, (NHS Grampian) (Chair); Councillor A Stirling (Vice Chair); Ms A Anderson (NHS Grampian); Mrs J Duncan (NHS Grampian); Ms R Little (NHS Grampian); Provost W Howatson, Councillor D Keating, Councillor G Reynolds, Councillor D Robertson; and Ms S Webb (NHS Grampian).

Integration Joint Board Non-Voting Members:

Ms F Culbert, Carers' Representative; Mr D Hekelaar, Third Sector Representative; Ms L Jolly, Chief Social Work Officer; Mrs S Kinsey, Third Sector Representative; Mr M McKay (NHS UNISON); Ms J McNicol, Nursing Lead Advisor; Dr M Metcalfe, NHS Grampian Acute Care Lead; Ms P Milliken, Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership; Mr C Smith, Chief Finance and Business Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

Officers: Ms S Strachan, Ms G Fraser, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Mr A Glennie. Ms A McGruther and Ms R Taylor, NHS Grampian; Ms J Raine Mitchell and Ms A McLeod, Aberdeenshire Council.

In attendance:

Mr T Power, Director of People & Culture, NHS Grampian

Apologies: Ms A Mutch, Public Representative

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chair asked the Members of the Joint Board to join her in recording their thanks for the efforts of staff in responding to the recent Storm Arwen event in extremely difficult conditions.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. STATEMENT OF EQUALITIES

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Joint Board **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it: and
- (2) where an equality impact assessment has been provided, to take its contents into consideration when reaching a decision.

3. RESPONDING TO WINTER PRESSURES AND OPERATION IRIS

There had been circulated a report by the Chief Officer setting out the position that health and care services were facing over the winter and the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) and NHS Grampian's (NHSG) response. The report set out how AHSCP would work alongside NHSG over the period and undertake preparations and actions to respond to this enduring period through its operational response to these challenges, known as 'Operation Iris'. It was noted that Operation Iris would be in place until March 2022 and it would be reviewed and, at that stage, could be extended or an agreed termination date would be confirmed.

The Chair welcomed Mr Tom Power, Director of People and Culture, NHS Grampian, who was in attendance and gave a presentation on the approach of Operation Iris being taken to the challenges to health services in the forthcoming months. He noted that health and care services across Aberdeenshire and Grampian were experiencing unprecedented pressures which were expected to intensify over the winter period. Operation Iris sets out a realistic assessment of what is deliverable over the coming months and sets out a plan to stabilise the health system. He highlighted that the plan would be supported by a package of measures including an approach to managing risk, supporting the workforce and communications. He provided information on the Grampian – Operational Pressure Escalation System (G-OPES) which is a whole system approach to defining levels of system pressure and linking this to clearly defined actions, with the aim of managing the expected range of service pressures that will be experienced over the next six months, which uses four levels to describe pressure in any part of the system, from Level 1 to Level 4. He advised that the approach would be kept under regular review.

The Chief Officer provided some further background and advised that the purpose of the meeting was to seek to inform the Integration Joint Board of the position being taken over the winter period in order to provide assurance around the harms from Operation Iris and G-OPES as well as their mitigation. She highlighted that a lot of services had been stepped down during the early stages of the pandemic, and had subsequently been stepped up again and the next six months would be very challenging, given that there would be significant pressures across the whole system, with an increasing level of need and demand.

There was discussion of, and the Chief Officer and officers in attendance responded to questions and issues raised by Members of the Joint Board in relation to bed capacity in ARI and community hospitals, which are monitored on a daily basis; approaches to risk and risk assessment; ongoing recruitment activity being carried out on a pan-Grampian basis; the role of the Audit Committee around risk; the development of volunteer roles through work with AVA and the third sector; the role of the Local Resilience Partnership in circumstances where a major incident is declared; and the need for regular communications of baseline information and a regular flow of information during significant events.

The Joint Board, after detailed consideration, **agreed:**

- (1) it is informed about the position that health and care services are facing over winter and the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) and NHS Grampian's (NHSG) response;
- (2) that the HSCP should work within the Operation Iris, enabling health and care services to be provided to the population of Aberdeenshire through this very challenging period; and
- (3) to seek assurance from the Clinical and Adult Social Work Committee around the harms from Operation Iris and G-OPES as well as their mitigation.