

BOARD MEETING: 5 FEBRUARY 2016

CHAIR'S REPORT

Recommendation/action required:

The Board is asked to note the paper.

Author:

Sponsoring Director:

David Crichton
Board Chair

27 January 2016

Purpose of Paper

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the Board on activities and matters involving the Chair which are not covered by other papers on the agenda.

Introduction

2. This is my first report as Chair and I would like to thank all Board members and the many staff I have met so far for their welcome and support. Much of my first few weeks have been spent on a full and very well structured induction programme but I have also taken part in a number of external events and meetings which are reported on here.

Induction

3. I have now met all Board members and all Executive Directors, as well as members of the wider management team. I have also seen a great deal of background material covering our policies, activities and procedures as well as information on the wider context in which we operate.
4. I know that my predecessor was keen to see a more structured induction programme for new non-executive Directors and, with the support of Della Thomas in particular, that has certainly been achieved. We are now refining the programme further to support our four new Non Executive Board Members.

Board and Committee meetings

5. I attended the Board seminar on 4 December 2015, which provided the first opportunity for the full Board to contribute to the revision of our existing strategy, "A Fairer Healthier Scotland". The outputs from the meeting will be circulated to Board members and there will be further opportunities to comment and contribute as the new strategy evolves over the next six months or so.
6. I have also now attended a full cycle of Committee meetings as well as a Partnership Forum. This has helped me understand the remit and scope of our Committees, and their fit within our governance procedures. The preparation for and management of all the meetings has been impressive.

Scottish Government

7. I met Andrew Scott our lead "sponsor" in the Directorate of Health and Social Care at the Scottish Government on 10 December 2015, providing some insight into how we are perceived within Scottish Government and what the Directorate's expectations are of us.
8. I spoke briefly to Mr. Alex Neil, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights, at the launch of the Place Standard, also on 10 December. He was very positive about our work.

Stakeholder Engagement Event

9. I welcomed delegates to our Stakeholder Engagement Event in Glasgow on 1 December 2015 and took part in a couple of the discussion groups. Ninety-two delegates registered for the event. The event gave our Government, local authority, NHS and Third Sector partners an opportunity to discuss the context for our work and to contribute to our strategy revision. There was a strong sense of commitment to our mission from everyone I spoke to, tempered slightly by recognition of the resource constraints facing Third Sector organisations.

Place Standard launch

10. I introduced and chaired the launch of the Place Standard in Edinburgh on 10 December. Alex Neil opened the event. We were able to attract an impressive line-up of speakers and around 121 delegates registered for the event. The Place Standard, which we developed jointly with Architecture and Design Scotland and the Scottish Government, provides a tool for communities, planners, architects and urban designers to determine and improve the impact of place on community health and wellbeing. It has been very well received; the challenge now being to ensure it is adopted widely and effectively.

Other meetings and events

11. I attended a seminar hosted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in Glasgow on 18 January. This was one of a series of engagement events being held by HSE throughout the UK to seek input to their forward strategy.
12. I met with George Brechin, Board member of HSE, and Sir Andrew Cubie, who chairs the Healthy Working Lives National Advisory and Advocacy Group, on 25 January.
13. By the time of our Board meeting, I will have attended our Health and Human Rights Seminar (26 January), a Quality Scotland reception at Holyrood (26 January) and a meeting of the National Strategic Group on Physical Activity at Victoria Quay (27 January). I will report on any significant outcomes from these at the Board meeting.

Forward schedule

14. Over the next few weeks, my schedule so far includes:
 - NHS Chairs' meeting
 - New NHS Chairs' meeting with the Cabinet Secretary
 - Board seminar
 - NHS Scotland Senior Leaders' Forum
 - A CIPFA course on Essential Skills for Board Members
 - Our conference on Health and Welfare Reform
 - Institute of Directors Awards Dinner

15. I will report back on these in due course but if colleagues have any insights or advice for any of the meetings, please let me know.

Communications

16. There are no specific communications issues arising from this paper which are not addressed through other relevant plans.

Risk

17. Any risks associated with this update are incorporated with related project plans.

Equality and Diversity

18. There are no specific equality and diversity issues arising from this paper.

Environment

19. There are no specific environmental issues arising from this paper.

Action/Recommendations

20. The Board is asked to note this paper.

David Crichton
Board Chair
27 November 2016