

Health Governance Committee (HGC) Proposal to Board

1. The Board is requested to approve the proposal to suspend the HGC, further to discussion and HGC member agreement at the last HGC 29 November 2018.
2. The Board is requested to note and approve the proposals detailed in sections 7 – 8 for the conduct and response to remaining HGC business from 1 March-30 November 2019, including the proposal in section 7.3 for this arrangement to apply also to other Committees.

Background

3. The HGC set out a revised schedule of business for 2018 that would enable the Committee, on behalf of the Board, to seek assurance that NHS Health Scotland's five strategic priorities were in a good position in order to pass on our health inequalities and health improvement legacy to Public Health Scotland.
4. The HGC paper format was revised to enable this transition governance and the following headings were used:
 - The rationale and work for 2018/19
 - A brief backward look
 - Forward looking priorities to continue and/or develop
 - Areas to stop; plan to stop or advise is less of a priority for the new public health organisation
 - Synergy with Public Health Priorities
 - Areas to handover
 - Ideas for new or different things that have not been possible so far for Health Scotland
 - Issues still to resolve
 - Issues Associated with Transition (a heading incorporated in all Board and Committee papers since 2018)

HGC Progress

5. The HGC have now successfully completed reviews and been assured across all five strategic priorities as follows:
 - 4 July 2018 (re-scheduled 3 May meeting) received assurance from Strategic Priority 1: Fairer and Healthier Policy and Strategic Priority 2: Children, Young People and Families
 - 13 September 2018 received assurance from Strategic Priority 3: A Fair and Inclusive Economy and Strategic Priority 5: Transforming Public Services
 - 29 November 2018 received assurance from Strategic Priority 4: Healthy and Sustainable Places
6. The HGC concluded that they had completed the core of their intended work programme.

7. Other areas HGC govern and proposals for how these aspects can be dealt with are as follows:
 - 7.1 The governance of (CR) 18-6 risk. "As a result of not engaging local authority and third sectors in creating the new public health body, key perspectives are not heard, reducing its credibility.". The assurance of this risk has already transferred to full Board.
 - 7.2 Annual Adverse Significant Event Report. The November 2017 – November 2018 was approved by the HGC at the 29 November 2018 meeting and appears at the February 2019 Board meeting for noting. It is proposed that the report is placed on the November 2019 schedule for assurance purposes
 - 7.3 Equality Outcomes and Diversity Report. HGC provides assurance on an annual basis that we achieve our outward facing equality outcome through using a human rights based approach, we advance equality in health and tackle the unfair inequalities in health outcomes. This last came to HGC 29 November 2018 and it is proposed that it comes to full Board for assurance in 2019. This may also be the way to deal with other Equality Outcomes and Diversity Reports that have in the past come to Committees i.e. one report on all the outcomes to full Board.
 - 7.4 The HGC Annual Assurance Statement and Report due to the May 2018 HGC (which was postponed) was dealt with by correspondence. It is proposed that the HGC Annual Assurance Statement and Report due to come to the 23 May 2019 HGC before coming to Board could be dealt with by correspondence by the HGC.
 - 7.5 The approval of 29 November HGC minutes and approval of any outstanding actions could be completed by correspondence with the HGC members

Responding to other issues if they emerge

8. If other more in-depth assurance or scrutiny issues arise in relation to the Strategic Priorities that cannot be governed through the quarterly Board performance reports, then these issues either become a topic of Board Seminar discussion and/or a full board agenda item - for example, as we are doing with the item relating to engagement with the alcohol industry. This was a topic of discussion at the 1 February 2019 Board Seminar and will return to March Board for approval. If these issues increase in number then one of the already scheduled HGC for 2019 will be utilised. These meetings are scheduled as 7 March 2019, 23 May 2019 and 12 September 2019. The HGC members should continue to hold these dates in their calendars in case any may in due course be required.

Della Thomas, Executive and Governance Lead

4 February 2019