

HS Paper 26/19

Board Meeting: 17 May 2019

Chair's Report

Recommendation/action required:

The Board is asked to note the report.

Author:

David Crichton
Board Chair

Sponsoring Director:

8 May 2019

Chair's Report

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the Board on my activities since our last meeting and on matters which are not covered by other papers on the agenda.

2. **Public Health Scotland**

As we now know, the vesting date for Public Health Scotland has been delayed again until 1 April 2020. Fortunately this is something we had been anticipating and had begun planning for, especially in terms of reviewing our governance arrangements for an extended period of transition. This was a particular matter for discussion at the Audit Committee meeting of 26 April and the Staff Governance meeting of 10 May, so a full update can be provided at the Board Meeting. I will also provide a verbal update on my discussion with Malcolm Wright on 9 May.

I am in the course of speaking with all Board Members whose term of appointment was due to finish on 30 November 2019 and I will summarise progress with that at the Board Meeting.

The delay means of course that NHS Health Scotland in its current form has another full year of normal business to deliver and I look forward to that. Whilst there is no need in any sense to unpick the thorough transition planning that has been under way, it does mean that we can and should continue to support and challenge the organisation in delivering the outcomes set out in our strategy and delivery plan.

3. **Public Health Reform Oversight Board (PHOB)**

Still on the reform programme, I attended the PHOB meeting on 24 April. There were three main items: a report on the specialist public health workforce; a report on whole system working; and an update on Public Health Scotland.

4. **Board Chairs meeting with Cabinet Secretary**

I attended this meeting on 25 March. Most of the discussion with the Cabinet Secretary was around matters primarily for the territorial boards: hospital infection prevention and control, waiting times and the new legislation on staffing levels. There was however a summary from the Minister for Mental Health on the mental health strategy, with a focus on prevention and early intervention. The discussion reinforced the value of our decision last year to be more explicit in describing and developing our work in mental health.

5. **Infrastructure Commission**

On 24 April I met with Ian Russell, who has been appointed by the Scottish Government to chair a new Infrastructure Commission. Ian wanted to discuss the key infrastructure requirements emerging for the NHS in Scotland and whilst I was able to direct him to more appropriate contacts in Scottish Government and territorial boards to discuss the service's major infrastructure needs, I was able to emphasise the importance of smaller scale social and economic infrastructure that had potential to improve population health and wellbeing, in particular to enable co-location of

relevant public services.

6. Reform Collaboration Group

On 5 April I attended a meeting of the Reform Collaboration Group which comprises the Scottish Ambulance Service, the Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland and which is working towards improved collaboration between the three “blue light” services. Whilst I was there primarily in my Scottish Police Authority capacity, I did take the opportunity to encourage the commitment that the group already has in providing more appropriate and informed emergency services to vulnerable people, in particular those with mental health problems.

7. Annual Reviews

I intend to complete as many as possible of the annual non-executive Director performance appraisals by the end of this month, subject to everyone’s availability. Marie Kerrigan is coordinating the schedule for these meetings.

8. Finance and Resource Implications

Any finance and resource implications arising from the governance matters mentioned above will be covered during the meeting.

9. Staff Partnership

Any partnership issues arising from our governance considerations will be reported during the Board meeting.

10. Communication and Engagement

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

11. Corporate Risk

Any additional risks associated with this update will be covered during the meeting.

12. Issues Associated with Transition

The key change and transition issues have been identified in the items noted above.

13. Promoting Fairness

There are no issues arising from this paper.

14. Sustainability and Environmental Management

There are no specific issues arising from this paper.

15. Action/Recommendations

The Board is asked to note the report.

David Crichton
Board Chair
17 May 2019