NHS
Health
Scotland

HS Paper 49/19

Board Meeting: 22 November 2019

Chair's Report

Recommendation/action required:

The Board is asked to note the report.

Author: Sponsoring Director:

David Crichton
Board Chair

8 November 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.   **Board Chairs Conference, 3/4 October 2019**
The Board Chairs' annual conference took place at the Golden Jubilee over 3-4 October, although I only attended the first day due to our own Board Seminar on the 4th. Much of the discussion on the first day reflected on the role of Chairs and non-executives in a very target-focused operating environment, and the extent to which they can be accountable for meeting targets whilst respecting the boundaries between executive and non-executive responsibilities. This was linked to consideration of the lessons to be taken from the Sturrock Report.

3.   **NHS Health Scotland Board Seminar, 4 October**
I want to thank again all those involved in planning the seminar, those who presented on the day and Board Members for their thoughtful contributions. There are two matters arising from the seminar that I would highlight here. One is the encouragement we received from the staff present to spend more time in our two offices over our remaining five months, partly to hear additional and direct feedback on how the transition to Public Health Scotland is progressing and being perceived. The other is to note that the proposal to hold our February seminar jointly with the emerging Public Health Scotland Board will need to be reconsidered due to the likely timetable for appointing members.

4.   **Corporate Governance Steering Group, 9 October 2019**
I attended the latest meeting of this group on 9 October, where items covered included the Scottish Government's Escalation Framework for intervening in Board performance issues, model standing orders for Boards and Chair and non-executive performance appraisal. Although much of the Group's output comes a bit late in the day to affect for our own operation, it has been achieving a lot in terms of improving the robustness and consistency of NHS Board governance.

5.   **Board Chairs & Chief Executives meeting, 9 October 2019**
Also on the 9th, I attended, along with our Chief Executive, a joint meeting of Board Chairs and Chief Executives.

6.   **COSLA Conference, 10 October 2019**
I attended the opening session of COSLA's annual conference in St. Andrews. The event programme included a session on Public Health Scotland.

7. **LEPH Conference, 21 October 2019**

   The international Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference took place in Edinburgh over 21-23 October. I attended in my NHS Health Scotland capacity though was of course able to make the link to my role with the Scottish Police Authority. There were over 450 delegates and the conference programme reflected the growing connections – both in theory and increasingly in practice - across policing and public health. I co-chaired the opening plenary session, and both Gerry McLaughlin and Cath Denholm chaired other sessions over the course of the conference.

8. **Board Chairs meeting, 28 October 2019**

   I was asked to present on the evolution of our work in public health improvement and the current main challenges being faced. I took the opportunity to highlight and distribute our "Building our Future" report, on which I have since received positive feedback. I particularly focused on the responsibility of territorial Board Chairs to show leadership and personal involvement in building the "whole system" approach, and to encourage and support their public health teams to participate fully. Jim McGoldrick also attended the meeting and provided an update on progress with Public Health Scotland.

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
13 November 2019