

Meeting on 14 May 2020

Key Issues Considered

1. Focus on COVID-19 response - Dr Burns delivered a presentation to the Committee outlining NHS Lanarkshire's Clinical Risk Management during the Covid 19 pandemic. The presentation provided information regarding national and local infection rates, fatalities and data regarding increased risks linked to the 60+ age group and those with underlying health conditions. A copy of the report that accompanied the presentation is attached.

The Committee considered additional information related to "flattening the curve" i.e. how fast, intelligent action slows the pandemic effects and can prevent healthcare systems becoming overwhelmed. Strathclyde University modelling use of data to predict service implications was explained. Planning work included public health measures, reviewing service capacity and stopping some services to release capacity where most needed. The presentation included details regarding operational strategy, i.e. best use of resources and how to mitigate risk. The Committee also reviewed information related to Non-Covid emergency care and urgent care for the next 6 months including clinical triage pathways. Finally, the presentation reviewed next steps for NHS Lanarkshire services, preparedness for a possible second wave, redesign and recovery.

2. HQAIC Annual Report 2019-2020 - the Committee noted the Annual Report 2019-2020, terms of reference and Committee work-plan and it was acknowledged that the terms of reference were due for review in March 2020, however the meeting was cancelled in light of the escalating Covid-19 situation. The terms of reference were therefore noted and approved at the May 2020 meeting. The Information Governance (IG) Committee Annual Report was not available at the meeting but this was circulated after the meeting electronically to Members as part of our assurance framework. No issues were raised about the IG Annual Report.

3. Adverse Events & Duty of Candour Highlight Reports - Mrs Cormack presented a report to the Committee providing an update regarding Significant Adverse Event Reviews and Duty of Candour. The Committee noted that as a result of the Covid-19 situation, some of the SAER timelines have been put on hold. Arrangements have been agreed and communication shared to ensure there are no Category 1 or Duty of Candour incidents being paused during this time.

Of the Duty of Candour investigations that are currently closed, the Committee was assured that all elements of the legislation have been complied with. The Committee was also assured that SAERs will receive sufficient priority now that the initial peak has passed.

Any Decisions / Approvals taken to highlight

1. A number of other Highlight Reports were considered, in keeping with the assurance role of the Committee, and these included the Quality Strategy Report, the Research & Development Report, the Quality Assurance & Improvement Highlight Report, the Lanarkshire Infection Control Committee Covid update report, the Adverse Events & Duty of Candour Highlight Reports (as above) and the Complaints Highlight Report, the Safety Plan Steering Group and the Quality Planning & Professional Governance Committee update.

2. Lanarkshire Infection Control Committee Covid update report – Mrs Coulombe presented the report to the Committee, highlighting that during the period January to March 2020, the Infection Prevention and Control service had made significant changes to the Prevention and Control of Infection Work Programme to enable the service to step up to the demands of COVID-19 preparedness and management. The report provided details of what services have stopped, reduced or changed. A copy of that report is attached.

Any risks identified that need to be highlighted

1. Covid-19 - the risks highlighted by Dr Burns and Mrs Cormack were clearly articulated during the presentation and allied with the report from other Groups and Committees, notably the report from Mrs Coulombe in relation to Infection Control measures in place during this period, the Committee noted the risks but were assured by the significant management actions being taken forward to address these risk.