

NHS Board Meeting  
25 November 2020

Lanarkshire NHS Board  
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**SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC – REVIEW OF REVISED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS & UPDATE FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to seek formal approval of the decision taken during October 2020 / November 2020 following email consultation of all Board Members that the Acute Governance Committee and the Population Health, Primary Care and Community Services Committee should be stood down from effect on 1 November 2020.

Board Members are also being updated by way of an attached letter (Appendix 1) from Scottish Government which asks NHS Boards to continue to be mindful of operational pressures and maintain good governance arrangements during the pandemic period. The Board is actively exploring means by which members of the public might access Board meetings in a virtual basis and national guidance is awaited on the options to be considered.

For approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For endorsement	<input type="checkbox"/>	To note	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**2. ROUTE TO THE BOARD**

This paper has been prepared by Paul Cannon, Board Secretary.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

In July 2020 the Board endorsed a decision arrived at through discussion with Governance Committee Chairs, the Board Chair and the Board Secretary that the Acute Governance Committee and Population Health, Primary Care and Community Services Committee should be stood up. In addition it was confirmed that the NHS Board should continue to meet on a monthly basis and the Planning, Performance and Resources Committee should continue to be stood down.

Further discussion was held at the Board Briefing Session on 28 October 2020, in light of the Chief Executive standing up the Strategic Command meetings three time per week, led to a further discussion with Board Members about the arrangements in place, and it was decided to stand down these Committees from 1 November 2020.

Board Members were asked by email on 29 October 2020 to agreed that the Board would continue to meet monthly and that the Committees that would continue to meet as planned in November and December were

- Audit Committee
- Staff Governance Committee
- Healthcare Quality Assurance and & Improvement Committee

with re-focussed light touch agendas on Covid, Brexit and key performance issues.

It was also agreed to postpone the following Committees that were due to meet in November

- Acute Governance Committee
- Population Health, Primary Care and Community Services Governance Committee

It was stressed however that the Lead Director(s) of both above Committees would escalate issues that they felt need to be highlighted and discussed with their respective Chair.

It was also agreed that both of these Committees should plan to meet in January 2021, rather than wait until the next scheduled meeting of each Committee in March 2021.

Board Members agreed unanimously to these short term changes to governance arrangements and agreed that this decision would be homologated by the Board at the November meeting, and reviewed further.

#### 4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This paper links to the following:

Corporate objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Government directive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Statutory requirement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AHF/local policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urgent operational issue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 5. CONTRIBUTION TO QUALITY

This paper aligns to the following elements of safety and quality improvement:

##### *Three Quality Ambitions:*

Safe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person Centred	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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##### *Six Quality Outcomes:*

Everyone has the best start in life and is able to live longer healthier lives; (Effective)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People are able to live well at home or in the community; (Person Centred)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Everyone has a positive experience of healthcare; (Person Centred)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff feel supported and engaged; (Effective)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthcare is safe for every person, every time; (Safe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Best use is made of available resources. (Effective)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 6. MEASURES FOR IMPROVEMENT

The review of the effectiveness of the corporate governance arrangements will be discussed further at the January 2021 NHS Board meeting.

#### 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of changing the Corporate Governance arrangements of the Board at this stage.

**8. RISK ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There is a risk that existing revised Governance arrangements will not provide the Board with the necessary assurance and oversight of the continuing response to COVID-19 and the oversight required during the complex recovery phase. There is a risk in the effectiveness of Corporate Governance arrangements if succession planning issues are not addressed.

These risks are mitigated with the proposals outlined in this paper.

**9. FIT WITH BEST VALUE CRITERIA**

This paper aligns to the following best value criteria:

Vision and leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effective partnerships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance and accountability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Use of resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Performance Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

**10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Not required.

**11. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Board Members were given an opportunity to comment on the revised governance arrangements in November 2020 by email.

**12. ACTIONS FOR THE BOARD**

Approve	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endorse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify further actions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Note	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accept the risk identified	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ask for a further report	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Board is asked to

1. Approve the decision to stand down the Acute Governance Committee and Population Health, Primary Care and Community Services Committee meetings in November 2020;
2. Note that that are being rescheduled for January 2021; and
3. Note the recent guidance issued by Scottish Government on Covid-19 and governance arrangements (Appendix 1).

**13. FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information about any aspect of this paper, please contact:

**Paul Cannon, Board Secretary**  
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