

Lanarkshire NHS Board

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**Draft Minute of the Meeting of the Area Clinical Forum held on  
 Thursday 17 February 2022 at 2.00pm via MS TEAMS**

**PRESENT**

Mrs M Lees	Chair, Area Allied Health Professions Advisory Committee (Chair)
Dr A Campbell	Chair, Area Psychological Services Advisory Committee
Ms C James	Member, Area Allied Health Professions Advisory Committee (Vice Chair)
Dr J McGuire	Member, Area Healthcare Sciences Advisory Committee
Ms K Taggart	Chair, Area Healthcare Sciences Advisory Committee
Dr K McIntyre	Chair, Area Medical Advisory Committee
Mrs M McSherry	Chair, Nursing & Midwifery Advisory Committee
Dr S Percival	Ex-Officio Member of the Area Dental Advisory Committee

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr P Cannon	Board Secretary
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**APOLOGIES**

Dr J Burns	Executive Medical Director
Mr F Munro	Chair, Area Ophthalmic Advisory Committee
Mr A Macintyre	Chair, Area Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee

**1. WELCOME**

Mrs Lees welcomed Members to the meeting. She also welcomed Kirsty Taggart to her first meeting as Chair of the Area Healthcare Sciences Advisory Committee. Mrs Lees paid tribute to the significant contribution made to the work of the Forum by Dr Graeme McCurragh, as previous Chair, a sentiment echoed by Forum members.

Mrs Lees also indicated that this would be the last meeting attended by Mrs McSherry, and Mrs Lees thanked Mrs McSherry for her contribution to the Forum, and the Area Nursing & Midwifery Advisory Committee. It was noted that Mrs Margot Russell would represent the Committee at future meetings.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 18 NOVEMBER 2021**

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

#### **4. COVID-19 UPDATES**

Members noted a suite of information relating to Covid Public Health data and the Board's own daily reports. Mrs Lees referred to the discussions going on at Corporate Management Team about the need to review the fixed term nature of posts within the Vaccination Service, and the Test & Protect Service, especially within the senior management of the Vaccination Service. It was noted that many of the vaccination senior team contracts come to an end in June 2022. The impact on Care Homes was also noted, which was having an impact on the ability of Acute Hospitals to discharge patients into appropriate care placements, and leading to delays in patient discharge.

#### **5. RECOVERY ISSUES**

Each Member was invited to contribute comments on their own areas in relation to recovery issues.

All Forum Members acknowledged the pressures that staff were still under while Covid prevalence showed no signs of easing, and the number of in patients and positive cases was still stubbornly high.

It was noted that revised national Respiratory Pathway guidance was being discussed at Gold Command later this week, and that should help to clarify roles and responsibilities and should provide a clearer pathway for patients seeking assistance.

In Dentistry, Ms Percival highlighted that it was proving extremely difficult to recover activity as waiting rooms were only allowed to accommodate a small number of patients at a time, and many procedures carried out by dentists were classed as Aerosol Generating Procedures, and the number of practices able to undertake these was very restricted.

Dr McIntyre highlighted that waiting lists are now extending in some specialties to 3 years, and in other Board areas was considerably longer. The backlogs across the system were going to be difficult to manage, and would take many years to see at pre covid levels. The Area Medical Committee would be sponsoring some work across primary and secondary care to establish pathway reviews to see what can be done to increase throughput and share the burden of addressing waiting lists equitably across both sectors.

Dr McGuire reflected on the significant increase in diagnostic tests requested, not just in relation to Covid, which would need to be addressed in the short to medium term.

Mrs Lees asked colleagues about workforce issues and reflected that the Forum would be part of the development of the Board's revised Workforce Plan later in the year.

In relation to Midwifery, Mrs McSherry stated that recruitment was very difficult and the service had been asked to consider 4 'gap year' type periods of leave for recently qualified midwives who had worked through the pandemic period without significant breaks, which was exacerbating the issue of retention.

Dr McIntyre reflected that it was still proving difficult to recruit GPs, and locum cover was also very difficult to secure. Within the Hospital sector he was aware that the Board had only 1 Consultant Dermatologist, which was a difficult specialty to recruit to nationally. He also

highlighted that the Board currently had 18 single handed GP Practices, which was a clear risk.

In Dentistry, it was noted that in general the level of vacancies was high, and this was being exacerbated by graduates choosing to work part time. In Hospital specialties there were no graduates coming forward to respond to adverts for vacancies, especially in orthodontics. However, the Area Dental Committee recently heard that efforts to recruit to long standing vacancies in the Maxillo Facial specialty were successful. There was also concern about the lengthening waiting lists for General Anaesthetic extractions for children / adults with special needs, with over 500 on that list, but only 1 theatre session per month to address the demand.

In Psychology, Dr Campbell stated that recruitment was being managed nationally through NHS Education for Scotland, and while there were some successes in Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, and Psychological Therapies, this was not sufficient to meet the demands, despite the funding being available to recruit more staff. These services were continuing with a covid hybrid model of seeing patients face to face and using video / remote appointments, and this was proving to be popular with staff and patients and would continue.

Ms James stated that in Podiatry remote triage was reducing the number of patients needing to be seen face to face, and this was having a positive benefit. However, in terms of recruitment there were only 15 graduates across Scotland and filling posts was very difficult. It was also the case that private practice was more attractive for many Podiatrists than taking up an NHS post.

Mrs Lees thanked Members for sharing their updates.

## **6. STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**

Mrs Lees updated colleague on two strands of strategic work which was currently ongoing.

### **OUR HEALTH TOGETHER: LIVING OUR BEST LIVES**

Mrs Lees provided an update on the progress being made by the Strategic Delivery Group to oversee the detailed work of various workstreams, not all of whom had been established in the light of other service pressures. Mrs Lees referred to a presentation on Health Needs Assessments which showed that one in four residents in Lanarkshire had two or more long term conditions. It was agreed to share the presentation with Members. It was also noted that Colin Lauder should be invited to a future meeting of the Forum. **PC**

### **NATIONAL CARE SERVICE CONSULTATION – SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

Forum members were provided with a copy of the Scottish Government response to the comments submitted, which was noted.

## **7. BOARD REPORTS (January 2022)**

Members were provided with copies of a number of Board papers (January 2022) for information, which were noted, including the Corporate Risk Register, and the Finance Report.

## **8. MONKLANDS REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Mrs Lees provided a verbal update and it was noted that the Board was continuing to discuss the development of the Outline Business Case over the course of the rest of 2021. At the January Board meeting it was agreed to establish a new Governance Committee – the Monklands Replacement Committee – which will oversee the development of the OBC, and other issues, reporting through the Planning, Performance and Resources Committee. It was also noted that the Board had a new Chair, Mr Martin Hill, and Mrs Lees confirmed that an invitation to attend a future meeting would be extended to Mr Hill. **PC**

## **9. STAFF WELLBEING**

Members provided updates in relation to wellbeing issues. It was agreed to invite Paul Graham along to a future meeting.

## **10. UPDATES FROM PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Members provided updates in relation to the issues being address in recent meetings.

Allied Health Professionals Committee - Ms James provided an update and highlighted discussion at the Committee about the Rehabilitation Strategy, the appointment of an Arts Therapist in NHS Lothian (who came along to the meeting), accommodation issues, and highlighted that in terms of workforce planning there were very few tools to use for Allied Health Professionals.

Dental Committee - nothing to add to the updates provided earlier, it was noted the Committee would be meeting on Monday.

Healthcare Sciences Committee - Ms Taggart reported on discussion being taken forward nationally, a review that was underway of Audiology Services, and the work of a National Clinical Engineers Group. It was also noted that Greater Glasgow & Clyde was no longer providing Clinical Physiology Services. It was also noted that a Pathology Review was being taken forward on behalf of West of Scotland Medical Directors, which was proposing a centralisation of Pathology services, but Mr Cannon stated that this had not been raised, discussed or endorsed formally by the NHS Board.

Optometric Committee - Mr Munro was unable to attend.

Medical Committee - Dr McIntyre had nothing to add to the updates already provided.

Nursing & Midwifery Committee - Mrs McSherry had nothing to add to the updates already provided.

Pharmaceutical Committee - there was no update as Dr Macintyre was unable to join the meeting

Psychological Services Committee - Dr Campbell provided an overview of the recent issues discussed by the Committee. It was highlighted following the sad death of a member of staff, the policy/practice surrounding support was being reviewed.

**11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

There were no items raised.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 April 2022 at 2.00pm by Teams.

DRAFT