

Core brief

Tuesday 15 December 2015

Introduction

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board met today Tuesday 15th in Board HQ, Gartnavel Hospital Campus, Glasgow. Below is a summary of some key papers, discussions and decisions.

Presiding over his first Board meeting as Chairman, John Brown revealed that there would be five or six new board member positions advertised in late February. To ensure wide-ranging and diverse interest in the opportunities a proactive marketing campaign would be launched during January and February detailing the work, influence and rewards of being a non-executive director of the UK's largest health authority.

Healthcare Associated Infection

Dr Jennifer Armstrong presented the Healthcare Associated Infection Report and highlighted that the rate of *Staphylococcus aureus Bacteremia* (SAB) infections had risen in Greater Glasgow and Clyde between April and June 2015 and matched the Scottish average of 33 cases per 100,000 acute occupied bed days. Previously our rate had been under 24. The Board heard that this level would be reduced.

The paper also reported on the increased incidence of *Serratia marcescens* in the neonatal intensive care unit of the new Royal Hospital for Children. Four different strains of the bacteria had been identified from routine weekly screening. One very premature baby with complex medical problems had sadly died and the bacteria infection was included as a contributory cause on the death certificate. Since July there had been 15 patients "colonised" with the bacteria. Dr Armstrong's report highlighted a series of actions to help prevent the bacteria. The Board heard that "people in this room" may unknowingly be hosting this bacteria and that strict hand hygiene and strict measures for staff and for visitors in such a unit were being reinforced with rigour. [Board paper 15/61](#)

Older people's services in North West Glasgow approved

Following the outcome of a full public consultation and engagement process, the Board approved proposals to transfer all older people's rehabilitation services for the west of Glasgow into a newly created integrated Rehabilitation Centre of Excellence at Gartnavel General Hospital. It is anticipated that this will be achieved by in the late spring of 2016.

Older people's mental health outpatient services will continue to operate from the Drumchapel site and are unaffected by these changes.

The GP out of hours service will now be subject to a separate review. [Board paper 15/68](#)

Board moves to approve use of e-cigarettes on hospital grounds

The Board approved a policy change that will permit the use of e-cigarettes in designated areas within NHSGGC grounds. The decision was taken following the emergence of new evidence which show e-cigarettes to be an effective tool in tackling harmful tobacco smoking rates and that their controlled use will further support the drive to make all NHSGGC sites completely tobacco free in line with the national policy.

Now that this change to the policy has been approved NHSGGC will:

- Identify specific areas within our grounds where e-cigarettes will be permitted - the policy change does not mean that e-cigarettes can be used anywhere on our grounds but in designated areas only.
- Develop a communications plan for staff, patients and visitors to make clear that tobacco and e-cigarettes are treated differently and communicate where people can use e-cigarettes on our grounds [Board paper 15/63](#)

Public health screening report 2014/15

NHSGGC's Director of Public Health presented the Public Health Screening Programmes 2014/15 annual report.

Dr Emilia Crighton's report showed areas of encouragement where national screening targets have been exceeded. However, a number of targets are still not being met despite national and local awareness raising campaigns.

Dr Crighton has strongly urged all those eligible for screening to take up the potentially lifesaving opportunity that screening offers. [Board paper 15/62](#)

Vale of Leven Inquiry Update of recommendation

A paper outlining progress on implementing the 75 recommendations resulting from Lord McLean's Inquiry detailed that: 10 of the recommendations require further guidance from the Scottish Government and one requires further guidance from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

Of the remaining 64 recommendations NHSGGC had fully implemented 47 and partially implemented 16. Good progress is demonstrated against those partially implemented with a number depending on progress of major developments.

It was agreed that the Medical Director and Nurse Director would be joined by four board members (Chairman, vice-chair Ian Lee, joint chair of staff governance Morag Brown and Susan Brimelow) along with a representative from the Area Clinical Forum to work through in detail the actions taken and those partially completed. This group would report back to the full Board. [Board paper 15/67](#)

Health Improvement Scotland Report (HIS) : Older People in Acute Care

Nurse Director Margaret McGuire discussed with Board members the outcome of a recent inspection to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and five wards in the Langlands Unit. The Board heard that the report and resulting media coverage caused significant public anxiety and had "devastated" staff in the stroke wards of the Langlands Unit in particular. The report's description of the care of two patients in particular had caused concern – stating that they had gone unfed for several days despite having had a full explanation of the circumstances from the lead nurse. Ms McGuire informed the Board that she had shared the concerns expressed in her paper with HIS and also with the Chief Nursing Officer as well as the Scottish Government.

The paper also outlines the main issues and improvement actions. [Board paper 15/73](#)

To view all papers presented to the Board visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/boardpapers

To view news releases issued on behalf of the Board visit: www.nhsggc.org.uk/mediacentre