



REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD 6 DECEMBER 2023

ABERDEENSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP (HSCP) STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP UPDATE

1 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB):

- 1.1 Acknowledge the report from the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) following its meeting on 31st October 2023 including the project update on the Analogue to Digital workstream and from the Workforce and Training Group.
- 1.2 To note the work undertaken by the SPG on a self-assessment process to be considered further as part of the IJB's own self-assessment.

2 Directions

- 2.1 No direction requires to be issued to Aberdeenshire Council or NHS Grampian as a result of this report.

3 Risk

- 3.1 IJB Risk 1 - Sufficiency and affordability of resource - transformational change is required to ensure service and financial efficiencies.
- 3.2 IJB Risk 6 - Service/business alignment with current and future needs - transformational change will determine and deliver priorities to meet needs.
- 3.3 IJB Risk 8 - Risk of failure to deliver standards of care expected by the people of Aberdeenshire in the right time and place - transformational change and service improvement will support the delivery of this outcome.

4 Background

- 4.1 The Strategic Planning Group (SPG) has been established as a requirement of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, a key function of which is to prepare a Strategic Plan for the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and to monitor progress of the plan on behalf of the IJB. The Aberdeenshire SPG specifically has responsibility for oversight of the transformational workstreams arising from the HSCP's Strategic Delivery Plan, ensuring an integrated and consistent approach in development and implementation of the Strategic Delivery Plan and supporting strategies.
- 4.2 This update report provides a summary of the main items of discussion at the Aberdeenshire SPG's most recent formal meeting on 31st October 2023.



5 Summary

- 5.1 The main focus of the SPG meeting was to undertake a self-assessment process. Both of the IJB's Audit and Clinical and Adult Social Work Governance Committees have undertaken a self-assessment in line with their Terms of Reference. This is also a requirement within the SPG's Terms of Reference whilst also linking to and supporting the HSCP's response to recommendation 1.3 from Internal Audit 2312 - Assurance Review of IJB Governance Arrangements.
- 5.2 The outcome of the self-assessment process will form part of the consideration of the IJB's own self-assessment. The discussion focussed on the quality standards, and specifically on the focus on strategic issues, the alignment of the IJB Strategic Plan with other local plans as well as engagement with the public.
- 5.3 In addition, this provided the opportunity for the group to consider its work and reflect on how it is fulfilling its role, as well as what improvements could be made in the future.

5.4 Analogue to Digital Strategy

- 5.4.1 The update report provided to SPG (attached at Appendix 1) highlighted that by the end of 2025, the current analogue telephone service on copper wires will be switched off as the UK's telecoms infrastructure is upgraded to digital fibre connectivity. This process has been underway for some time however the next 24-36 months will see the biggest impact on private and business telephone users as migration to digital is progressed by the various telecom providers.
- 5.4.2 Since September 2023, it is no longer possible to purchase or obtain a new copper based analogue telephone service if a digital telephone connection is available. The migration to digital telephone lines is being driven by the infrastructure owners, Openreach, and in some areas of the country Virgin Media, but delivered by the various telecom providers, i.e. BT, Sky, Talk Talk etc.
- 5.4.3 Although forced migrations were paused for a time, they are due to resume in 2024. Various actions to mitigate against telecare clients being 'force migrated' have been taken, including providing telecom providers with the ARC contact number to check for outgoing calls from customers and work is currently ongoing to instigate a data sharing agreement with BT regarding telecare clients within Scotland.
- 5.4.4 Key highlights which were provided in this latest update report includes:



- Preferred supplier for the Shared ARC solution tender identified and contract award is imminent and clear pathways to implementing solution along with ACC.
- Additional work necessary with ACC once pricing structure for shared ARC established.
- Purchasing strategy of 100 hybrid alarms each month since November 2022 now providing a constant supply of alarms (currently 6-month lead time for deliveries)
- Procurement pathway identified and in part established to continue.
- Purchasing of alarms out with framework and to complete necessary purchases.
- Infrastructure works identified for Sheltered Housing and work to progress in near future.

5.5 Workforce and Training Group Update

- 5.5.1 The Workforce and Training Group has overarching responsibility for the delivery of the Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership Workforce Plan (2022-25). The Workforce Plan, published in 2022, aims to support the achievement of the HSCP Vision with the development of a more flexible, fully staffed, trained and skilled workforce that better reflects the community which we serve in terms of protected characteristics.
- 5.5.2 There has been significant progress (Appendix 2) during quarters 1 and 2 of 2023/24 which were highlighted to SPG with key highlights including the investment in staff resources (Digital Project Manager and Workforce Training Manager) to support the workforce plan. The first six steps service review has been carried out with the Joint Equipment Service and another three service reviews are underway.
- 5.5.3 Key milestones which have been achieved by the project include:
- Three thematic sub-groups were established in June 2023 covering the above actions (Recruitment; Training, Development and Succession and Staff Health and Wellbeing).
 - Each of these groups has prepared an Action Plan to co-ordinate, lead and track progress against the suite of projects and actions which fall within their respective remits.
 - In all three cases actions and project delivery has also commenced on a phased basis.

6 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 6.1 The Chief Officer, along with the Chief Finance Officer and the Legal Monitoring Officer within Business Services of the Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make.
- 6.2 A high level Equalities Impact Assessment was completed for the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Potential impacts of this high level multi-faceted strategic



plan have been considered. Implementation of aspects of the strategic plan could result in unintended negative impacts on certain population groups.

- 6.3 To provide assurance each individual project delivering the priorities within the Strategic Plan will be required to complete an Integrated Impact Assessment. This will mitigate against potential negative impacts when designing the service improvements.

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Appendix 1: Analogue to Digital Project Update Report
Appendix 2: Workforce & Training Group Update Report