

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD (IJB) 5 JULY 2023

CHIEF OFFICER'S UPDATE

Tendering of Aberdeenshire GP practices

Inverurie Medical Practice wrote on 7 March 2023 to inform that it was no longer tenable for them to continue and as of 6 September 2023, they would cease providing services. We were advised by our Primary Care Contracts team to put the Practice out to tender, which we did with the other 2c practices across Shire as they had all come across recently, with the exception of one, and all had a short lead in time of three months due to only one GP partner remaining (normally 6 months' notice). On the 12 May 2023, Inverurie Medical Practice wrote and informed that they wanted to retract the hand back of contract. As the tender process had begun, we consulted with Primary Care Contracts team, Central Legal Office and our NHS Grampian procurement team and we were informed that we could exclude them from the tendering process and continue with the other practices and allow them to continue as Inverurie Medical Practice.

Business Case submissions for An Caorann, Saltoun, Aden, Central Buchan and Fyvie Oldmeldrum practices were received by 12 noon on 19 May. The panel appointed are required to score the business case based on the information provided against set criteria, agree as a panel those that should come forward to the next stage for interview/presentation and then score again. If any contract is deemed worthy of awarding, this will happen towards the end of June 2023.

National Care Home Contract

National negotiations have been ongoing around the rate for the National Care Home Contract (NCHC). A local working group has been convened by the Commercial and Procurement Shared Service including representation from both Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP) to provide regular updates and to support a collaborative approach to contingency planning, with many of the care homes being used by both City and Aberdeenshire.

Whilst the likelihood of the NCHC collapsing is slim at this point, it poses a significant risk to all those who operate within this sector including both local authorities. Aberdeenshire HSCP has updated its risk register to reflect the risks involved. A national approach continues to be the preferred model. Collaboration will be key, and we will continue to be proactive locally in contingency planning.

Junior Doctor's Strike - Aberdeenshire

Junior doctors have voted conclusively to reject the pay offer made by Scottish Government. The leadership of British Medical Association (BMA) Scotland's junior doctor committee confirmed three days of strike action will take place July 12th-15th unless an improved offer that the BMA believes could credibly be put forward to members is put forward by Scottish Government.

General Practice is considered a protected service. This means that there will not be a stipulation that clinicians from General Practice will be directed to support the days of strike action in secondary care. However, there will be request forms going out to staff who have had recent experience in secondary care looking at if they have

availability to support. General Practice see their function at this time as to continue to be the excellent gatekeepers that they are and where possible prevent admissions to secondary care.

There may be some impact to General Practice when trying to admit patients or speak to staff urgently in relation to patients. In addition, our GP trainees will be involved in the action although they are currently supernumerary in practice at present.

We may see as a result of the strike action that our outpatient clinics that we have operating all over sites in Aberdeenshire are cancelled or disrupted. Our community hospitals are supported by geriatrician consultants, as this is a supportive service, we do not expect that this will impact day to day function or admissions and discharges.

Plans for the Junior Doctor strike and how this will be managed at Royal Cornhill Hospital are still ongoing at the moment, but most up to date information is, cover arrangements are being put in place within Royal Cornhill Hospital to support flow in and out of the wards, ensuring that adequate cover is available in unscheduled care and to offer support in an emergency. At this stage no out-patient clinics have been cancelled but this may have to happen if support is required within Royal Cornhill Hospital. Royal Cornhill Hospital are working closely with GMED's and other departments to make sure cover is available overnight in case of emergencies.

Delayed Discharge

Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) has maintained a lower level of delayed discharges in relation to its rate per population and during the winter we were able to reduce levels with the assistance of interim care beds with Scottish Government funding.

Over the last few months our number of people delayed has been increasing, particularly in North Aberdeenshire. As at 19 June 2023 we had 19 people delayed in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, 5 people in Royal Cornhill Hospital and 63 individuals in our community hospitals.

Operational teams work very hard to support discharges as soon as possible and there is a constant flow of individuals supported to leave hospitals and new individuals waiting for care.

Our main challenges relate to placing people in care homes, particularly individuals affected by dementia and people waiting for more intensive care packages.

As the IJB is aware our medium-term solutions are being developed through our Social Care Sustainability Programme and short-term ones are ongoing, for example reviewing care packages and putting out specific commissions to cover gaps in service. Care management also continue to have weekly meetings with commissioned providers. We have also freed up a postholder at Location Manager level to work with teams in North, Central and South to look at our processes to ensure they are as efficient as possible.

We are completing a Scottish Government self-assessment and assurance template which helps identify potential areas of improvement and we have contacted the Scottish Government to be signposted to any learning which could assist our position. It is likely that we will bring this reflection and learning together in a workshop to look to generate improvement.

Pam Milliken
Chief Officer
Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership