

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD (IJB) 23 AUGUST 2023

CHIEF OFFICER'S UPDATE

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Update

RAAC is a type of lightweight concrete, commonly used in building projects from the 1950s to the 1990s. There are some concerns about its durability, especially if it sustains water damage or if there were problems with its original fabrication.

Aberdeenshire Council properties have been assessed both as a desktop exercise and as part of the ongoing condition survey process. No RAAC construction has been identified in properties used for service delivery by the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

NHS Grampian (NHSG) has completed a desktop exercise and has identified 9 properties owned by the Board in Aberdeenshire which may contain RAAC, based on age, design, and construction type. NHS Scotland Assure is coordinating further surveys of these 9 properties. It is anticipated that the surveys will lead to comprehensive risk assessment and recommendations, and at that stage NHSG will be in a position to make any decisions on any future actions and requirements. NHSG also plan to do a desktop survey of GP premises which are not owned by the Board and will feed the results back to the GP sub-committee. Any further action will be a matter for those building owners.

The management of risk is critical in this process and staff/patient/service user safety are paramount.

Place Strategy Update

In early 2023 Aberdeenshire Council agreed to develop and implement a Place Strategy that considers the current and future needs of communities to achieve positive change and improve outcomes. Since that time HSCP officers have participated in the Place based stakeholder workshops being led by Paul Macari, Head of Service – Planning and Economy, as part of a wider engagement exercise. In line with the anticipated timetable for consultation on the Place Strategy it is intended to bring this via a separate report to the October meeting of the IJB. Alongside this, officers continue to participate in related developments through the work being led by Ann Overton, Area Manager - Garioch with Hub North Scotland and Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) on the development of a Place-based approach for Inverurie, in addition to work continuing through the Shaping Places for Wellbeing project in Fraserburgh (as part of the national programme with the Improvement Service and Public Health Scotland).

National Care Homes Contract (NCHC) and Local Review

At the last meeting of the IJB on 5 July 2023 an update was provided on the ongoing national negotiations regarding the rate for the National Care Home Contract, and associated risks. Since that meeting it has been confirmed that Scottish Care members voted to accept the offer for the 2023/24 NCHC, representing a 6% and 5.99% increase in the nursing rate and residential rate respectively from 2022/2023.

Whilst a very welcome short-term solution, we continue to monitor closely the very challenging circumstances for care homes both nationally and locally. Work has commenced on an assessment/appraisal of the care home sector across Aberdeenshire. In the first instance the aim is to agree the detailed scope for this work, capacity required to complete the work and ensuring consideration of the short, medium and long-term direction.

Aberdeenshire Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) recruitment

Aberdeenshire adult mental health services have faced significant challenges with recruitment and retention of senior psychiatrists. There have been many factors impacting senior medical workforce challenges. They are multifactorial including both national and local workforce challenges. The most pertinent impact factors are linked to an increase in workload over the years resulting in burnout and general adult psychiatry becoming less attractive for existing and upcoming workforce. These factors have only been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CESR Fellowships

The CESR Fellows are experienced international psychiatrists keen to work in the U.K and the scheme provides them with sponsorship for General Medical Council registration and visa along with opportunities to train and gain skills towards attaining specialist registration.

This workforce is on a fixed contract of 3 years, cost effective (middle grade pay scale like Senior Associate Specialist: staff grade doctor grade), quality assured (receive training and monitoring) and motivated to take on clinical and non-clinical experience that will support a successful CESR application. The CESR Fellows receive clinical supervision and work alongside other senior medical colleagues in the team resulting in direct caseload sharing and quality assurance of their work.

NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership are the first agencies in Scotland to develop a CESR Fellowship programme. In Aberdeenshire, we recruited 3 CESR Fellows in 2021 and a further 2 posts in 2023. The first cohort Adult Mental Health CESR fellows support 1 post in North, Central and South Shire each. There are 2 further CESR fellows starting in August 2023 to support Central Shire and Banff and Buchan in the North. The CESR fellows have been positively received by both professionals and patients. The CESR fellows have allowed the service to release one agency locum post (Bennachie Community Mental Health Team) bringing with it significant financial savings. There has also been a fall in the number of medical consultation complaints.

Next steps:

1. An additional CESR fellow post will be advertised, to allow seamless transition for the anticipated North CESR Fellow vacancy.
2. An additional session is required to support the CESR fellowship programme (recently approved).
3. CESR fellowship expansion is to be considered for other specialities including Older Adults and Learning Disabilities.

Prison-Based Social Work Review

Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service currently provide the Prison-Based Social Work service at HMP Grampian in Peterhead. During July 2023, Aberdeenshire was notified of the intention to undertake a joint thematic view of Prison-Based Social Work in Scotland during 2023/24. The review will be carried out by the Care Inspectorate and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS), with work commencing in July 2023. The terms of reference for the review explain that there has been no specific scrutiny of prison-based social work services for over a decade. It is now considered timely and in the public interest to undertake a thematic review with a specific focus on prison-based social work. The thematic review will therefore consider the strengths and challenges in the governance, leadership and accountability of prison-based social work services within Scotland, which will give consideration to:

- Governance, leadership and direction
- Partnership working, including commissioning arrangements and resourcing
- Policies, procedures and guidance
- Management and support of staff
- Performance management and quality assurance

As part of the thematic review, information will be gathered from a range of sources: including a desktop review of relevant documentation, strategies, policies, procedures, guidance, etc; findings from a survey issued to prison-based social work staff; and the views of key contacts from the Scottish Prison Service, Prison-Based Social Work Leaders (across all 15 prison establishments), the Parole Board for Scotland, and Third Sector Organisations. The views of those involved in initial scoping discussions for the review (Social Work Scotland, Community Justice Scotland, the Risk Management Authority and the Scottish Government) will also be sought. It is anticipated that a report of the findings from the review will be made available to partners and published in April 2024.

Although at this stage, only the letter of intention and terms of reference for the review have been provided, preparations for the thematic review have now begun, and a small working group has been established to support this work. The group will be supported by a Project Manager from within Children's Services Social Work who has recent and relevant experience of the inspection process. Further updates on the progress of the thematic review will be provided to the board as this work progresses.

Delayed Discharge

On Tuesday 1st August, approximately 100 practitioners undertook an away day at Lochter to review elements of the management of delayed discharges. The number of Aberdeenshire patients delayed in hospital has shown an increasing trend over the summer period, which is contradictory to our usual seasonal expectations. Hospitals provide valued and essential assessment, treatment and care whenever that cannot be provided safely and effectively at home. However, an unnecessary prolonged stay in hospital involves less positive outcomes; deconditioning and a subsequent increase in level of care package required on discharge. Reliably achieving safe, timely and person-centred discharge from hospital to home is a visible indicator of quality and one measure of effective and integrated care.

The aim of the workshop focused on improving the pathway from hospital to home. Process mapping from each hospital site was used to determine the patient's journey from admission through assessment and onto discharge and how patients' outcomes are met. The workshop was focused on acknowledging what is working well and identifying the challenges and barriers of managing delayed discharges and meeting individual outcomes. Practitioners were then encouraged to undertake some 'blue sky' thinking as to how they believe we can make operational improvements, but also to determine strategic developments.

A presentation from Kay Duncan, Operational Lead Nurse was delivered on Priority Discharge Dates (PDD) followed by a presentation from Stephanie Duguid, Interim Location Manager on the policy for moving onto a care home. [Choosing a care home on discharge from hospital: guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/choosing-a-care-home-on-discharge-from-hospital/guidance/pages/introduction.aspx). Practitioners were then asked to identify the challenges of implementing this policy in practice.

The next step is to collate an action plan from the findings of the workshop focused on areas of practice that will benefit from improvement and areas of success that can be replicated and rolled out in other areas. The second phase of analysis will be to develop a process map to determine the journey a patient experiences whilst in our hospitals, to streamline this, achieve a consistent standard across all sites and to support best practice in meeting patients' outcomes.

Practitioners gave positive feedback at being involved in the improvement process. The networking opportunity was appreciated after a number of years with limited contact with colleagues.

National Care Service (NCS) Update

The National Care Service (Scotland) Bill was introduced by the Scottish Government in June 2022 with the intention of reforming how social care, social work and community health services are delivered in Scotland. The Bill is currently at Stage 1 of the parliamentary process, this was originally due to be completed by the end of March 2023 which was then extended to the end of June 2023.

A first Parliamentary vote on the Bill is now not expected until January 2024. This further extension is to ensure the information needed to make the Bill as robust as possible is available and support improvements to the social care system ahead of the establishment of the NCS.

Scottish Government officials have been working with Unions on the Fair Work agenda and Local Government with the aim of reaching a consensus position on the Bill. An initial consensus proposal between the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) (on behalf of local government) has been formed on a 'partnership approach' that will provide for shared legal accountability for care between Scottish Ministers, NHS Boards and Local Authorities.

This approach is intended to:

- Improve people's experience of accessing services by introducing a new structure of national oversight to drive consistency of outcomes, whilst maximising the benefits of a reformed local service delivery.
- Provide Scottish Ministers, local authorities and NHS boards with overarching shared legal accountability for the care system.
- Local Government will retain functions, staff and assets.

On the matter of Children's Services relating to the NCS Bill, following publication of the first two interim reports from the Children's Services Reform research on 21 June 2023 and 28 June 2023, the final report is anticipated to be published towards the end of October.

With regard to Justice Social Work Services relating to the NCS Bill, a programme of work and engagement to help inform a decision on the possible inclusion of justice social work (JSW) within the NCS is ongoing, with a final report due in late September 2023.

Codesign Workshops have been taking place over Summer 2023 in addition to five online sessions. Health and Social Care Scotland will be working on the development of a NCS Communication and Engagement Plan and meeting with Scottish Government colleagues following the summer codesign events to discuss the outcomes of this and next steps.

Pam Milliken
Chief Officer
Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership