

## **REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD (IJB) 11 OCTOBER 2023**

### **CHIEF OFFICER'S UPDATE**

#### **Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Winter Planning 2023-24**

Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Chief Officer alongside Nicky Connor, Chief Officer Fife HSCP gave evidence to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on winter preparedness and planning within health and social care. Correspondence to the Cabinet Secretary following this scrutiny is available at the following link: [The Health Committee's comprehensive letter to the Health Cab Sec](#)

Findings identified by the Committee were:

- Winter planning should be undertaken earlier and there is a need to plan for the year round pressure on services in order to deal with the additional pressures created by changing demographics and ageing population
- Need for a whole system focus to winter planning including primary, community and social care as well as on hospitals
- Concern about the further pressures on services as a result of cost of living and fuel poverty and the need to support unpaid carers
- Welcomed further initiatives on cross-government working, including with local government on prevention
- Need for a strategic approach to workforce planning and support for health and social care workforce to prepare for winter staffing pressures
- Understanding what recurring funding is needed to ensure health and social care services can operate well as a whole system, and effectively respond to winter pressures
- Need for robust evaluation to understand which measures have worked in previous winter plans and plans to evaluate the forthcoming winter plan
- Welcome further progress with data-sharing agreements between health and social care organisations and how these work in practice
- Need for an approach to public messaging around winter pressures to help people access the most appropriate care and support at the right time
- Need to set out the role of digital technologies in alleviating winter pressures as well as building awareness and confidence in these.

#### **Health and Care Staffing Act Update**

April 2024 is fast approaching when the Health and Social Care Staffing Act Scotland officially comes into force. Within NHS Grampian, the Health and Care Staffing Act Implementation Team is now established and have met twice. This group will ensure strong engagement with representation from all relevant staff in scope, clinical professionals and corporate services.

The Implementation Team will continue to report concerns, risks and progress as part of governance process to the Sustainable Workforce Oversight Group. As the group grows in knowledge and confidence, relevant sub-structures will be developed; this will also be an outcome of planned engagement sessions with advisory and leadership groups.

There is recognition that significant work is required over the next two years (to May 2025) to understand workload and implications of the Act prior to a move to business-as-usual model. Specific work is required to understand and align the current governance routes as part of implementation and then moving to business-as-usual professional advice and reporting.

From a Social Care perspective, the Care Inspectorate are taking the lead on developing the social care framework around this. They have held provider sessions locally with both in house and commissioned services, to explain the framework tools and what the bill will mean going forward. The [Draft staffing method framework \(v6\) | Care Inspectorate Hub](#) is available here. The survey relating to this concludes on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October and the draft framework (Care Homes) finalised soon after.

All social care services are currently expected to provide safe levels of support to individuals, as part of Health and Social Care Standards. It is not yet clear from the Care Inspectorate what difference, if any, the Safe Staffing Act will make. We await greater clarity now the consultation phase is concluding. Once we understand this, we may need to develop systems and processes, to gain the assurance and data required.

Aberdeenshire HSCP is very engaged and is utilising the Sustainable Workforce Oversight Group as a central focus on the work that will be required pulling in information from all organisations as required. There is a plan taking us through to January for all nursing services to undertake a run of Workforce tools including services new to this such as prison and custody and Clinical Nurse Specialists who are undertaking the tools for the first time.

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Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership