
To: Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

On: 29 September 2023

Report by: Chief Officer

Heading: Chief Officer's Report

Direction Required to Health Board, Council or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	X
	2. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	
	3. Renfrewshire Council	
	4. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and Renfrewshire Council	

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on key developments and operational activity since the last IJB on 30 June 2023 and additional policy developments that the HSCP is building into future workplans, strategies and action plans.
- 1.2. The contents of this paper reflect an ongoing period of change and uncertainty, particularly within the financial circumstances faced by the IJB. An update is provided on the HSCP's preparation for the winter planning period alongside ongoing business continuity planning to ensure robust plans are in place to manage potential challenges.
- 1.3. More widely, an update is provided on the reduction of reported alcohol and drug related deaths in Renfrewshire in 2022 and the key initiatives being taken locally to continue tackling drug and alcohol related harm deaths.
- 1.4. Several policy updates are also provided for awareness, alongside key operational policy relating to COVID-19.
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2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the IJB note:

- The range of key HSCP updates provided (Sections 4 to 10); and
- The national policy updates provided (Sections 11 to 15)

3. Background

3.1. The IJB and HSCP continue to operate within a fast-moving and complex policy environment which reflects high levels of service demand and the ongoing cost of living crisis, which will continue to impact on local communities, providers, and the public sector in coming months and beyond. In addition, Scottish Government policy continues to develop across a range of areas which will have significant impact on future operations.

3.2. This paper follows previous Chief Officer update reports to the IJB in providing a summary of the breadth of policy developments that the HSCP continues to respond to as part of, and alongside, service delivery.

Key HSCP Updates

4. Winter Planning and Business Continuity

4.1. The HSCP has now commenced preparations for winter. Although cyclical spikes in COVID-19 have not been observed so far this year, recent reporting suggests an increase in infection rates and the emergence of a new variant. In addition, it is recognised that services remain under continued pressure to deliver due to staffing pressures (recruitment and absence) and an increase in demands because of changing needs since the onset of the pandemic.

4.2. In September 2022, the HSCP provided an update to the IJB on the intention to review overarching Business Continuity Planning processes and the need to establish a review cycle to minimise the need for onerous annual winter planning exercises. In effect, HSCP planning for a range of business continuity scenarios throughout the year captures many of the challenges expected through the winter period.

4.3. In 2022/23, the winter plan focused on planning for a range of scenarios covering severe weather disruption and its impact on staffing, community visits, supply chain impacts, buildings, and accommodation. In addition, we included scenarios which addressed system outages or cyber incidents which would result in a temporary loss of systems, technology, or infrastructure.

4.4. In addition to considering these eventualities, a range of other actions were completed including the implementation of the new 'Home First Response Service,' further work to improve Renfrewshire's delayed discharge position and the creation of additional posts to support services using secured winter monies. This year's exercise has focused on further review and refinement of previous action plans across all operational services. This process will be completed by the end of September 2023 and a separate report describing the 2023/24 winter plan will be brought to the IJB in November 2023. Using the same impact assessment approach, as outlined above, the following priorities have been identified for this year:

- Reviewing and testing Care Home partial or full decant procedures;
- Reviewing Mental Health Inpatients partial or full decant procedures and identifying lessons from recent events affecting Ward 37 at the RAH;

- Progressing work with Renfrewshire Council and NHSGGC for the planning and installation of generators at Renfrew Health and Social Work Centre and within our Care Home estate; and
- An exercise to review staff locations for services and service users to support resilience through a power outage or other critical incident.

IJB as Category One Responder under Civil Contingencies Act 2004 Update

- 4.5. In January 2021, the IJB were updated on the confirmation from the Scottish Government that IJBs would be included as Category One responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Following this, in June 2021 the IJB approved a recommendation to delegate accountability for management of Category One responsibilities to the HSCP Chief Officer, as the IJB Accountable Officer. This includes the responsibility for carrying out all necessary arrangements to discharge IJB's statutory duties.
- 4.6. Within Renfrewshire, robust civil contingency arrangements were already in place prior to the changes of the 2004 Act - with involvement from the HSCP. The addition of Category One responder duties for IJBs represented a further formalisation of existing joint working arrangements.
- 4.7. In line with the agreed delegation of responsibilities, an annual update was submitted to the Scottish Government in August 2022 and the IJB updated in September 2022. In July 2023, the Scottish Government requested a further update on the continuation of arrangements and key achievements. A Renfrewshire response was submitted and in summary, covered four key areas:
- Representation and inclusion at local, strategic & operational levels
 - Management of resilience risks and issues
 - Business Continuity and Winter Planning Arrangements
 - Incident Response Roles

5. National and Local Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths Reports 2022

- 5.1. On 22 August 2023, the National Records of Scotland published the Drug Related Deaths [Report](#) 2022. In Scotland, there were 1051 drug-related deaths – a 21% decrease (279) compared to 2021 and the lowest number of recorded since 2017. In Renfrewshire, there were 39 drug-related deaths - a decrease of 22% compared to 2021. Renfrewshire had the 7th highest rate of deaths (2018 - 2022) across all 32 local authorities.
- 5.2. On 29 August 2023, Scotland's Alcohol Specific Deaths [Report 2022](#) was published. In 2022, 1276 people died in Scotland from causes solely attributed to alcohol – a 2% increase compared with 2021. Male deaths continue to account for around two thirds of deaths. There were 42 alcohol-specific deaths in Renfrewshire in 2022 - a 21% decrease compared to 2021.
- 5.3. Every death because of drug and alcohol harm is a tragedy. Several activities and developments are underway in Renfrewshire with the aim of preventing drug and alcohol-related deaths. This includes but is not limited to:

- Assertive outreach via the Harm Reduction Response Team (HaRRT)
- The implementation of Medication Assisted Treatment Standards
- Increase in Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service outreach clinics
- Continued distribution of Naloxone distribution to target those most at risk of overdose
- Enhanced access to residential rehabilitation placements
- CIRCLE Recovery Hub continues to provide a unique mental health and addiction support with a recovery focus
- RAMH First Crisis continues to provide support for individuals experiencing a crisis related to alcohol and/or drug use, a predominantly telephone-based crisis intervention operating 365 days a year
- Lived experience embedded in service delivery continues with Navigators, Recovery Facilitators and Recovery Peer Workers contributing to service developments across the system
- Our Lived Experience Forum (LEF) was launched in December 2022 aimed at those affected by alcohol or drug use
- A Family Support Worker is now part of CIRCLE service provision, across several groups aimed at supporting families
- The Renfrewshire Multiagency Drug Death Review Group is now in place
- The Renfrewshire Drug Deaths Prevention Group continues to embed the Preventing Drug Deaths in Renfrewshire Action Plan

6. National and Local Deaths by Probable Suicide Report 2022

- 6.1. The National Records of Scotland published its statistics for probable deaths by suicide in 2022 on 5 September 2023. Figures for Renfrewshire showed 33 probable suicides in 2022, an increase of 8 (32%) from 2021. This compares with figures for Scotland which showed an increase of 9 (1%) in 2022 to 762 from 753 in the previous year. We are saddened to see an increase in the number of people who have died by suicide within Renfrewshire, and we offer our sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones.
- 6.2. We had been seeing a more positive downward trend in recent years, with the five-year rate per 100,000 persons (2017-2021) at 11.2 in Renfrewshire, compared to 14.4 for Scotland. However, suicide is a complex and challenging issue and this increase to the Renfrewshire figures highlights that the challenge is ongoing. We take suicide prevention very seriously and have invested in proactive measures that enable us to take action to support the issues of mental health and suicide prevention.
- 6.3. We work closely with our partners across Renfrewshire to deliver a range of training and awareness-raising opportunities in the areas we believe it will have the biggest impact. Our approach aims to develop a wider community responsibility, through training opportunities being available for anyone who lives or works within Renfrewshire.
- 6.4. We have invested in an online suicide prevention learning course, which has been completed by more than 400 people who live or work within Renfrewshire in the last year. This aims to enable people to be more confident

when speaking to someone who has thoughts of suicide and to direct them to other help.

6.5. We have continued to deliver face-to-face training to our frontline workers. Particularly notable is the participation of pupil support staff from across our schools, with more than 80 pupil support staff having completed a two-day workshop on suicide prevention.

6.6. With the launch of the Scottish Government's Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan "Creating Hope Together", we have established a new Suicide Prevention Strategy Group, which aims to reduce the rate of suicide and self-harm within Renfrewshire, taking a partnership approach to drive forward suicide prevention work. Collectively, we are committed to working with our communities to better understand and tackle the underlying reasons for suicide.

7. Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership – Independent Chair

7.1. Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) is a strategic planning partnership established to deliver national and local priorities. The ADP is responsible for planning, formulating delivery plans, funding/commissioning services and reporting on key outcomes. The aim of a partnership approach is to be inclusive and transparent, with representation from key stakeholders fully involved in the prevention and reduction of alcohol related harm and associated deaths.

7.2. Recently, there have been significant changes in the alcohol and drug policy landscape including the work of the Scottish Government's new National Mission on Drugs, the Drug Deaths Taskforce, and the additional investment from the Scottish Government. In response, and to ensure that the ADP continues to effectively deliver local and national priorities, an independent review of the ADP was commissioned by the HSCP.

7.3. A key recommendation of the review was the need to appoint an Independent Chair to strengthen governance and the strategic oversight of national and local frameworks. The recruitment process has now concluded, and John Goldie has been successfully appointed. John has a long connection with alcohol and drug service provision and has local connections with Renfrewshire. Previous appointments include:

- Head of Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services for South Glasgow
- Chair of the Scottish Recovery Consortium
- Advisor to the Board of Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs
- A member of the Dundee Drug Commission and Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Commission.

7.4. Additionally, John led the 2018 Independent Review of Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Services and has worked as an Independent Consultant reviewing alcohol and drug recovery services across the UK including Lanarkshire, Fife, Powys, and Gwent. John commenced his role in late August.

8. Scottish Government COVID-19 Testing Guidance

- 8.1. On 9 August 2023, the Scottish Government confirmed that following a clinical review, all Scottish COVID-19 routine testing has been paused in all health, social care settings. An exception to this is for individuals in hospital, prior to being discharged to a care home or a hospice: routine testing will remain. This follows advice from Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland, Public Health Scotland, and Scottish Government Professional Clinical Advisors in Infection Prevention and Control.
- 8.2. The testing protocol for COVID-19 will revert to testing as appropriate to support clinical diagnosis and for outbreak management as per the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual, or on advice from local Infection Prevention and Control Teams or local Health Protection Teams. Testing for those eligible for COVID-19 treatments will continue to be available. Routine testing for COVID-19 pre-discharge from hospital to a care home or hospice will be retained to provide additional reassurance for these settings. This is in line with the current position in England and will be kept under review.
- 8.3. As a result of these changes, the 'Managing health and social care staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive COVID-19 test' [guidance](#) has also been paused. While testing is paused, any staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection should follow the NHS Inform advice.

9. Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland Winter Flu and COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

- 9.1. An update was provided to the IJB on the above programme in June 2023. On 8 August 2023, following final advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland (PHS) confirmed they are finalising plans for the roll out of Scotland's winter vaccination programme.
- 9.2. This year's programme has an increased focus on protecting those at highest risk of becoming seriously ill from flu and COVID-19. Following concerns regarding new variants (e.g., Pirola) and an increase in infection numbers over the late summer period, the vaccination programme start dates have been brought forward to ensure maximum protection to these groups over the winter months. The winter programme will run until 31 March 2024.
- 9.3. Everyone over 50 and those with certain conditions will be offered a flu vaccination. People aged 50-64 with no underlying health conditions, are now being called forward for appointments starting from 4 September 2023. The expansion of the flu programme to include secondary school pupils continues this winter, with all school age pupils, children aged 2-5 and children aged 6 months to under 2 years at risk being eligible. Both flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be offered to people most vulnerable to illness and, where possible, administered at the same time. Further detail and advice can be found [here](#).
- 9.4. NHSGGC has lead responsibility for mass vaccination programmes. Community clinics will continue to work in partnership with Local Authorities

and HSCPs across Renfrewshire to deliver the programme. This will be supplemented by a mobile bus service operated by the Scottish Ambulance Service. The HSCP will continue to lead on providing vaccinations to the housebound, care home residents and those with weaker immune systems.

10. NHSGGC Mental Health Strategy 2023 - 2028

10.1. On 29 August 2023, the [NHSGGC Mental Health Strategy 2023 – 2028](#) was approved by the NHSGGC Board. The existing strategy primarily focused on adult mental health services. The scope of the existing strategy has been widened and establishes a joint approach to, and strengthens relationships with, other strategies across all mental health services.

10.2. The refreshed strategy includes recommendations for other parts of the health and care system, reflects policy changes, maintains the aim of shifting the balance of mental health case through a model that proposes enhanced community mental health provision and reflects the impact of COVID-19 on those delivering and using services. The HSCP will continue to progress the recommendations including those across a broader range of services. A further update will be brought to the IJB at a future date.

Key National Updates

11. Scottish Government Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy

11.1. On 29 June 2023, the Scottish Government and The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) published a new [Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#). The strategy sets out the long-term vision and approach to improving the mental health and wellbeing for everyone in Scotland – and the role of other key areas such as poverty, housing, employment, and our communities. The strategy will be supported by annual delivery and workforce action plans, developed jointly with partners and stakeholders.

11.2. Recognising that current financial challenges are likely to continue over coming years, the strategy provides a framework for prioritising resources across the system over the next 10 years to ensure that investment is targeted and delivers sustainable and high-impact services and support. An evaluation of funding decisions and the impact of these investments will be built into new strategic governance arrangements. Early priorities for investment include:

- CAMHS and psychological therapies
- Addressing waiting times backlogs
- An extension of support for distress
- Ongoing implementation of our Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Delivering improved community-based mental health and wellbeing support for children, young people, and adults

11.3. Implementation, governance, and progress of the strategy will be overseen by a new joint decision-making body, the Mental Health, and Wellbeing Leadership Board. This will be led by the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport and COSLA with representation from HSCPs.

- 11.4. Renfrewshire will work in partnership with the NHSGGC Mental Health Programme Delivery Board to consider the requirements, implications, and opportunities of the strategy, within the context of current and ongoing work, to deliver on the National Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027 outcomes. Our local Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Planning Group will work with partners, including health improvement team and communities, to ensure local priorities are identified and progressed.

12. National Care Service Progress Update

- 12.1. An update on Stage 1 of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill was provided to the IJB in June 2023. It was agreed that future progress updates would be provided to the IJB on key developments. On 7 June 2023, Parliament agreed that Stage 1 consideration of the Bill would be extended to 31 January 2024. Consequently, the Lead Committee has agreed to pause its consideration of the Stage 1 Report.

- 12.2. In a [letter](#) dated 12 July 2023, the Scottish Government confirmed that the additional time would be used to undertake engagement with people with lived experience, workforce representatives, unions, local government and providers to ensure the Bill is robust as possible, as well as supporting improvements to the social care system before. Between June and August 2023, various regional and online forums have taken place as part of the co-design process with outputs expected in September 2023.

- 12.3. Additionally, the Scottish Government and The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) reached an initial agreement on a new partnership approach that will provide for shared legal accountability for the National Care Service. A new structure of national oversight will be introduced, with a view to driving consistency of outcomes, whilst maximising the benefits of reformed local service delivery. This will provide Scottish Ministers, Local Authorities and Health Boards with overarching shared accountability for the care system. Under the proposals, Local Authorities will retain service delivery functions, staff, and assets.

- 12.4. The Scottish Government has committed to engaging with Local Government to develop the detail of the proposals and consider any necessary amendments to the Bill to reflect the principle of shared accountability.

- 12.5. The first interim report from the Children's Services Reform research was published by CELCIS on 21 June 2023. Following further interim reports, the final report will be published in October 2023. This will help inform any proposals on the relationship between Children's Services and an NCS. Regarding Justice Social Work, a programme of work to help inform a decision on the possible inclusion of justice social work (JSW) within the NCS is ongoing and a final report due in September 2023. A further update will be brought to the IJB in November 2023.

13. Verity House Agreement

13.1. On 30 June 2023, The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and the Scottish Government agreed a new [Partnership Agreement](#) (the Verity House Agreement). It sets out a joint vision for a collaborative approach to delivering shared priorities for Scotland - tackling poverty, a just transition to net zero and sustainable public services. These priorities are supported by several commitments:

- Improved engagement on budgetary matters, in preparation for the Scottish Budget in December 2023
- Conclude a Fiscal Framework between Scottish Government and Local Government of which regular budget engagement will be a key part
- Develop and agree a shared programme of activity underneath each of the three priorities, focusing on the period between now and the next Scottish Council Elections in 2027
- A first joint review of Specific Grants and In-Year Transfers to Local Government will be undertaken to identifying those which can be baselined into General Revenue Grant or General Capital Grant from 2024/25, creating more freedom and flexibility for Councils to address shared priorities in locally appropriate ways.

13.2. At the time of writing, the potential impacts of the agreement on future funding for Adult Social Care are unclear. A further update will be brought to a future IJB when the proposals have been fully developed.

14. The Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019

14.1. On 1 April 2024, the [Health and Care \(Staffing\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) will take effect. The Act aims to enable high quality care and improved outcomes for people using services in both health and care by helping to ensure appropriate staffing. The Act places duties on several bodies including NHS Boards, Local Authorities, care service providers, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, the Care Inspectorate, Scottish Ministers, Special Health Boards, and Integration Joint Boards.

14.2. The policy intention is to enable an evidence-based approach to decision-making relating to staffing requirements that ensures appropriate staffing for the delivery of safe and effective care, which takes account of service user health and care needs and promotes a safe environment for both service users and staff. The Act also includes a requirement for these bodies to follow a staffing methodology, including the use of staffing and professional judgement tools, to determine staffing levels in specified healthcare settings.

14.3. The legislation does not seek to prescribe a uniform approach to workload or workforce planning. Instead, it enables the development of suitable planning approaches in different settings. The Act is structured in four Parts and sets out specific requirements for Health Boards, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Care Service Providers, Care Inspectorate and Scottish Ministers.

14.4. Health Boards, Local Authorities and IJBs are required to submit annual reports to Ministers on compliance, high-cost agency uses and any severe and recurrent risks. Healthcare Improvement Scotland will be responsible for

monitoring compliance in the health care sector, along with monitoring and reviewing the common staffing method and staffing tools. The Care Inspectorate may also develop staffing methods for use in the care sector and any staffing method developed must include the use of staffing level tools.

14.5. The [Draft Statutory Guidance](#) is currently open to consultation. The Guidance has been prepared by various working groups comprising representatives from the Scottish Government and external stakeholders, including Health Boards, Special Health Boards, NHS NSS, Local Authorities, IJBs, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Care Inspectorate, professional bodies, trade unions and professional regulatory bodies.

14.6. We will continue to monitor national developments and work closely with our partners through existing and newly established governance arrangements to oversee implementation. The HSCP Senior Management Team will continue to liaise with NHSGGC Chief Nurse and Renfrewshire Chief Social Work Officer on the wider implications for integrated health and social care services.

15. **National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 – Updated 2023**

15.1. On 31 August 2023, the Scottish Government published the updated [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 - Updated 2023](#). This replaces the 2021 Guidance. This guidance describes the responsibilities and expectations for all involved in protecting children and will support the care and protection of children sets out responsibilities and expectations of everyone who works with children, young people and their families in Scotland and describes how agencies should work together to protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.

15.2. The current update was undertaken to ensure that the Guidance includes significant legislative, policy and practice changes that have occurred since September 2021. It also incorporates learning from this period of implementation. At the time of writing, the HSCP is reviewing the implications of the changes to the Guidance and will work with partners to reflect these.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – No implications from this report.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – No implications from this report.
3. **Strategic Plan and Community Planning** – No implications from this report.
4. **Wider Strategic Alignment** – No specific implications from this report.
5. **Legal** – No implications from this report
6. **Property/Assets** – No implications from this report.
7. **Information Technology** – No implications from this report.
8. **Equality & Human Rights** – No implications from this report.
9. **Fairer Duty Scotland** - No implications from this report
10. **Health & Safety** – No implications from this report.
11. **Procurement** – No implications from this report.

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12. **Risk** – Any risks and issues arising from the contents of this report are captured, tracked and managed on an ongoing basis and incorporated into reports to the IJB Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.
13. **Privacy Impact** – None from this report.
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List of Background Papers: None

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