
To: Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

On: 26 June 2020

Report by: The Clerk

Heading: COVID-19 Emergency Governance Arrangements for Summer 2020

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. A report was submitted to the Integration Joint Board meeting on 20 March 2020 which explained that due to guidance issued by the UK Government and to support measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, approval was sought for a delegation to the Chief Officer to enable decisions to be taken without there being a requirement for the Integration Joint Board to meet. That delegation included the power, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the IJB to cancel today's meeting.
- 1.2. Following consultation, it was decided that today's meeting should proceed and would be held remotely using an audio/visual system that would enable members of the IJB to participate in the meeting. This would give the IJB the opportunity to scrutinise the actions taken in response to the emergency and to plan future arrangements for overseeing the services provided through the Health and Social Care Partnership as public health protection measures are relaxed in line with the Scottish Government's phased route-map out of lockdown. Accordingly, this report seeks approval for governance arrangements to be put into place over Summer 2020 involving holding two additional meetings of the IJB to be held with remote access and also changing the date for the IJB meeting previously arranged for 18 September 202
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2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the IJB:

- Notes the arrangements made by the Chief officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair for today's meeting of the IJB.
- Agrees to additional meetings of the IJB taking place on Friday 31 July 2020 and 28 August 2020 and to change the date of the next scheduled meeting of the IJB on 18 September 2020 to Friday 2 October 2020.
- Notes that there will require to be a further additional meeting of the IJB in November 2020, to consider the audited accounts of the IJB.
- Agrees that the meetings will all start at 10am and will be conducted remotely using a video and/or audio service and following the procedures all as described in paragraph 3.3 of the report.
- Agrees to continue the existing emergency delegation to the Chief Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair to make all decisions required relating to the functions of the IJB if any decision requires as a matter of urgency to be taken advance of the next available meeting of the IJB.
- Notes that the governance arrangements for the IJB during the Covid-19 emergency will be reviewed at the October meeting of the IJB.

3. Background

- 3.1 Members of the IJB will be aware of the serious situation arising from the spread of the Covid-19 virus and the impact that has had on services provided through the Health and Social Care Partnership. At the start of the pandemic it was difficult to predict the impact of the virus on services and when the IJB would be able to meet again. In those circumstances, it was agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Officer to take any decisions necessary arising from the pandemic.
- 3.2 The advice at that time was that unnecessary meetings should be avoided and those in defined groups should take steps to self isolate. Although that advice is still in place and it is not possible to hold a physical meeting of the IJB, the use of video and audio conference technology to conduct meetings has become commonplace and it is considered possible to hold effective meetings of the IJB using this technology. Accordingly, the view of the Chief officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair was that it was possible for today's meeting to take place and that all members will be given the opportunity to access appropriate training in the system that is to be used to allow them to participate. However, it was recognised that by approving these

arrangements members of the public would not be able to attend the meetings or to watch them as they occur.

- 3.3 Due to the seriousness and complexity of the issues that have arisen affecting the IJB since the last meeting of the IJB in March 2020 and which are expected to arise in the coming weeks, it is now considered essential that those issues are properly considered at Board level rather than under delegations to the Chief Officer. In these circumstances, it is proposed that two additional meetings are programmed through the summer months, at the end of July and the end of August. It is also proposed that the meeting scheduled for September is moved back until October. These meetings will continue to be held remotely subject to any changes in Government guidance with the public unable to access the meetings but for future meetings, a recording will be made of each meeting which will then be published as soon as possible after it has concluded.
- 3.4 It should be explained that normally, the meeting in September each year is scheduled to take place to meet the statutory deadline for the approval of the audited accounts. However, officers are aware that it is unlikely that the audited accounts will be available for approval in September. This situation is common across IJBs nationally and the Scottish Government has now advised that public bodies have been allowed some flexibility in the deadline for approval of audited accounts to recognise the additional pressure on those involved in preparing and auditing the accounts during the pandemic. Therefore, the IJB can now approve its audited accounts in November without being in breach of the statutory requirement. A further meeting for the IJB will be arranged in November once there is greater clarity on when the audited accounts will be available and this will be the subject of a report to one of the future meetings of the IJB referred to in this report.
- 3.5 The governance arrangements put in place for the Covid-19 emergency will be reviewed at the meeting in October 2020 to establish whether further emergency measures are necessary.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community Planning** – none
4. **Legal** – This report seeks approval for temporary governance arrangements to be established between now and November 2020
5. **Property/Assets** – none
6. **Information Technology** – none

7. **Equality & Human Rights** – The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – the proposed arrangements for meetings to be held remotely are intended to protect the health and safety of the members of the IJB and others who would attend those meetings.
9. **Procurement** – procurement activity will remain within the operational arrangements of the parent bodies.
10. **Risk** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none.
12. **Climate Risk** - none

List of Background Papers – none

Author: Ken Graham, Clerk,