

Borders NHS Board



Meeting Date: 5 September 2019

Approved by:	Alison Wilson, Non Executive Director
Author:	Alison Wilson, Non-Executive Director
AREA CLINICAL FORUM UPDATE	
Purpose of Report:	
The purpose of this report is to brief the Board on keys items discussed at the Area Clinical Forum (ACF) on 25 th June 2019.	
Recommendations:	
The Board is asked to note the update from ACF	
Approval Pathways:	
This report has been endorsed by the ACF	
Executive Summary:	
<p>The ACF would like to highlight the following to the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive news about Area Medical Committee re-forming and Dr K Buchan being new Chair of this Committee was welcomed at ACF. • ACF raised an issue about the ground level concerns, which some members have encountered, from people working in community - about turnaround and the Boards' financial difficulties. A commitment is requested from the Board to allay the fears and uncertainty that people may have about the stability of their jobs. • Transformation work around GP contract is creating uncertainty in Primary Care. • Chair Election process was administered by Iris Bishop, Board Secretary. Alison Wilson was voted to remain as Chair for a further three years and Dr Kevin Buchan was voted as new Vice Chair of ACF. • ACF Annual Report 2018/19 was approved and is attached. 	
Impact of item/issues on:	
Strategic Context	The ACF is a statutory committee.
Patient Safety/Clinical Impact	None
Staffing/Workforce	Communications about the financial turnaround required to be delivered in different ways to staff at all levels - to ensure that those who do not receive emails receive communications.
Finance/Resources	None
Risk Implications	None
Equality and Diversity	None
Consultation	None
Glossary	ACF - Area Clinical Forum

Area Clinical Forum Purpose

As required by “Rebuilding our NHS” and revised as per CEL 16 (2010), the Area Clinical Forum (ACF) exists to advise the NHS Board. The purpose of the Area Clinical Forum (ACF) is to formulate comprehensive clinical advice to the Board on matters of policy and implementation. The Committee is committed to be pro-active in:

- Reviewing the business of professional advisory committees to ensure co-ordination of clinical matters across each of the professional groups;
- The provision of a clinical perspective on the development of the Local Delivery Plan and the strategic objectives of the NHS Board;
- Sharing best practice and encouraging multiprofessional working in healthcare and health improvement;
- Ensuring effective and efficient engagement of clinicians in service design, development and improvement;
- Providing a local clinical and professional perspective on national policy issues;
- Ensuring that local strategic and corporate developments fully reflect clinical service delivery;
- Taking an integrated clinical and professional perspective on the impact of national policies at local level;
- Through the ACF Chair, being fully engaged in NHS Board business; and
- Supporting the NHS Board in the conduct of its business through the provision of multiprofessional clinical advice.

The Chair of the ACF is a Non-Executive Director of the NHS Board; Alison Wilson has been Chair since August 2016).

Area Clinical Forum Members 2018/19

Chair	Alison Wilson, Non-Executive NHS Borders Board
Area Pharmaceutical Committee	Alison Wilson, Director of Pharmacy (& ACF Chair)
Area Medical Committee	Dr Angus McVean (Area Medical Committee)
Area Allied Health Professionals Committee	Pamela Gordon, Professional Lead Podiatrist
Area Nursing and Midwifery Committee	Mr Peter Lerpiniere, Associate Director of Nursing for Mental Health, Learning Disability & Older People
Area Dental Committee	Morag McQuade, Dentist
Area Optical Committee	Nicola Hall, Optometrist
Healthcare Scientists Advisory Committee	Jackie Scott, Department Manager Laboratories
GP Sub	Dr Tim Young, GP
Psychology/Mental Health Services	Dr Caroline Cochrane, Head of Psychology
Also attending:	Dr Cliff Sharp, Medical Director John McLaren, Employee Director

Area Clinical Forum Meetings

The Area Clinical Forum (ACF) continues the practice of timing meetings to coincide with the release of NHS Borders Board Papers, allowing discussion and the ability for the ACF to offer advice. The ACF Chair has regular opportunities to meet with the Chair and Chief Executive of NHS Borders.

We welcome the regular attendance at meetings of Dr Cliff Sharp, Medical Director, to facilitate the flow of information between the ACF and the Board Executive Team. The Employee Director, John McLaren also has a standing invitation to attend the ACF. The ACF Chair and several ACF Committee members continue to attend the Clinical Strategy Group and sub groups, allowing ACF views to be sought and reflected in discussions related to policy, planning and delivery of services.

As per NHS Borders Corporate Objectives, safe, effective and person centred care remain the focus and interest of the ACF in its committee business and activities. Many ACF members are also actively engaged in Leadership Walk rounds and Leadership Inspections. 7 Area Clinical Forum meetings were scheduled for 2018/2019; two meetings were cancelled due to number of apologies in June 2018 and September 2018.

Feedback to Area Clinical Forum included:

Clinical Governance Committee	Regular updates on infection control; changes to blood ordering system; GP training; new Tissue Viability specialist nurse; Datix reporting updates; Mental Health review on drug related deaths; success with maternity electronic record system; NHS Borders Learning Disability Nurse won Unsung Hero award at Scottish LD Nursing Conference; morbidity and mortality process reviews; above average cleanliness review; issue with staff numbers; review of SAER policy; new peri-natal tool in Maternity; PwC audit of complaint handling showed several areas of good practice and only one area for improvement.
Public Governance Committee	Updated Terms of Reference and work-plan; fluid and nutrition strategy; Joint Older People's action plan; review of model complaints handling procedure; approval for funding for adult changing facilities; update on hospital falls.
National Area Clinical Forum	New Chair from NHS Orkney; plans to re-engage with Cabinet Secretary to provide input from ACFs; regional planning and integration; ministerial reviews; realistic medicine; clinical care and engagement; Scottish Access Collaborative; GNS Contract; Primary Care Improvement Plan; Health & Care (Staffing) Scotland Bill; clinical strategy.

Presentations included:

- Winter Plan 2018/19
- Primary Care Improvement Plan 2018/19
- Partnership Working in NHS Borders

Topics also covered this year include:

- Pharmaceutical Care Services Plan
- Duty of Candour
- Workforce Conference
- Winter Plan
- EU Withdrawal – regular updates
- Unacceptable Actions Policy – Complaints
- Potential for Change
- Financial position
- Children and Young People’s Plans
- Public Protection report
- Ministerial Review
- Engagement with Professional Advisory Committees – ACF meeting attendance
- Recovery Plan – Clinical Engagement
- Financial Turnaround and Programme Management Office

Attendance from Professional Advisory Groups 2018-19

Advisory Groups	03.04.18	26.06.18	31.07.18	04.09.18	30.10.18	15.01.19	05.03.19	
Allied Health Professionals		CANCELLED	✓	CANCELLED				
Area Dental Advisory Committee			✓		✓			
Area Medical Committee								
Area Ophthalmic Committee	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Area Pharmaceutical Committee	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Borders Area Nursing & Midwifery Advisory Committee	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
GP Sub Group								
Medical Scientists								
Mental Health/Psychology	✓				✓			
Dr Cliff Sharp Medical Director	✓						✓	✓
John McLaren – Area Partnership	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	

The General Practice Subcommittee, Senior Medical Staff Committee, Nursing and Midwifery Committee (BANMAC), Ophthalmic Committee (AOC), Dental Committee and Pharmacy Committees (APC) continue to have reasonable attendance. BANMAC, AOC and APC have regular attendance at ACF and are able to offer useful advice to the Board.

Other committees have not met / do not meet and this has impacted their ability to provide useful advice to the Board. The ACF itself has struggled with low attendance rates and a number of meetings have been cancelled.


Clinical staff are keen to engage with the activities of the Board but committees struggle with attendance for a number of reasons, for example staff turnover, unable to release staff from day to day responsibilities and the time of meeting can be a hindrance, particularly for the independent contractors. For these reasons it is often the more senior staff with more flexibility in their diaries who are members of the professional advisory committees.

With the more pressing financial pressures and the turnaround programme there is an even greater need to see improvements in clinical engagement. Efficient and effective spending of limited budgets is obviously reliant on those that make the decisions that impact the budgets.

For meaningful clinical engagement there is a need for high quality relevant data, the correct people round a table with time to consider and make sensible decisions based on that data, and management support to act on those decisions. The risks have been highlighted previously; lack of clarity of financial accountability, limited IT and data analysis teams; clinicians under great pressure with frontline work, and a management structure constantly needing to react to the inevitable short term pressures of the system.

We are enthusiastic about the creation of the Clinical Alliance and ACF members very much want to be part of it. Though this is in its early stages the greater emphasis on communication and active clinical engagement is welcome to ensure there is a route for clinicians and management teams to work together to design future services for NHS Borders.

The ACF micro site, to improve access to information, profile and effectiveness of the ACF locally, can be viewed at <http://intranet/microsites/index.asp?siteid=549&uid=1>



Alison Wilson, Area Clinical Forum Chair

June 2019