

## 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 multi-professional 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 multi-professional 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 2019/20

<b>Chair</b>	Alison Wilson, Non-Executive NHS Borders Board
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Dr Kevin Buchan, GP
<b>Area Pharmaceutical Committee</b>	Alison Wilson, Director of Pharmacy (& ACF Chair)
<b>Area Medical Committee</b>	Dr Kevin Buchan, GP
<b>Area Allied Health Professionals Committee</b>	Pamela Gordon, Professional Lead Podiatrist
<b>Area Nursing and Midwifery Committee</b>	Mr Peter Lerpiniere, Associate Director of Nursing for Mental Health, Learning Disability & Older People
<b>Area Dental Committee</b>	Ehsan Alanizi, Dentist
<b>Area Optical Committee</b>	Nicola Hall, Optometrist
<b>Healthcare Scientists Advisory Committee</b>	Jackie Scott, Department Manager Laboratories
<b>GP Sub and GP Exec Groups</b>	Dr Kevin Buchan, GP
<b>Psychology/Mental Health Services</b>	Dr Caroline Cochrane, Head of Psychology
<b>Also attending:</b>	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 Dr Kevin Buchan, GP, Chair of GP Sub and GP Exec groups and as ACF Vice Chair. 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. 7 Area Clinical Forum meetings were scheduled for 2019/2020; two meetings were cancelled due to number of apologies in September 2019 and January 2020.

### **Feedback to Area Clinical Forum included:**

Clinical Governance Committee	Ombudsman reports and requirement for more focus around action plans; mortality ratios; infection control; Community Hospital inspections; ward hygiene report; changes to annual patient safety report; whistleblowing; new complaints process; Kelso Hospital received Excellence in Care award for no pressure damage since Jan 2018; deep dive into PMAV and falls; drug deaths in Scottish Borders; OPAH Annual update.
EU Withdrawal Update	Weekly returns and Brexit meeting reports from Scottish Borders Council; medicines shortages updates from Scottish Government group set up to monitor this; focus on medicines and strategic planning; pharmacy procurement and community pharmacy procedures; request to not stockpile or double script;
Public Governance Committee	With ACF members unable to attend meetings, it was agreed that the Public Governance Committee minute would be circulated and any items relevant could be raised at ACF meetings. Communication with parents and families; pilot programme in Ward 4 for bedside handover; internal audit of public involvement and engagement.
National Area Clinical Forum	ACF annual reviews; Ministerial visit preparation and meetings; ACF role in Integrated Joint Boards; work following Gosport Report; eHealth strategy; health inequalities; Scottish Access Collaborative; realistic medicine; clinician engagement with ACF.

**Presentations included:**

- Financial Turnaround presentation from Bold Revolution
- Update on 3-Year Financial Plan
- Turnaround & Financial Savings Targets 2020/21
- Primary Care Improvement Plan

**Topics also covered this year include:**

- Financial turnaround
- Waiting times target
- Winter Plan 2019/20
- Pharmaceutical Care Services Plan 2020/21
- Re-election of ACF Chair and election of ACF Vice Chair
- Multi professional approach to Primary Care
- Road to Digital
- Concerns about recruitment
- Communications around financial turnaround
- BGH Laboratory previous service redesign resulting in staff retention difficulties
- Community Pharmacy medication review positive feedback
- Optician – Clinical Viewer trial to allow access to discharge information
- Public Protection unit development to create effective links across services
- Medication shortages
- Safe Staffing – request for presentation

**Attendance from Professional Advisory Groups 2019-20**

Advisory Groups	02.04.19	25.06.19	03.09.19	01.10.19	03.12.19	14.01.20	03.03.20	
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		✓						✓

## ***Area Clinical Annual Report Summary***

The General Practice Subcommittee, Area Medical Committee (AMC), Nursing and Midwifery Committee (BANMAC), Ophthalmic Committee (AOC), Dental Committee and Pharmacy Committee (APC) continue to have reasonable attendance and are able to offer useful feedback and advice to the Board.

Some committees have not met or are unable to send a representative to the ACF meetings and this has impacted their ability to provide useful advice to the Board. The ACF itself has struggled with low attendance rates and two meetings have been cancelled.

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.

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***

***May 2020***