

## Borders NHS Board



Meeting Date: 3 December 2020

<b>Approved by:</b>	Mr Tris Taylor, Chair, Public Governance Committee
<b>Author:</b>	Mrs June Smyth, Director of Strategic Change & Performance
<b>PUBLIC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE</b>	
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to brief the Board on any areas of concern within the Committee's remit, in order to provide assurance to the Board that those matters have been identified and are being addressed.</p>	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
<p>The Board is asked to <b>note</b> the update from the Public Governance Committee.</p>	
<b>Approval Pathways:</b>	
<p>This report has been prepared for the Board.</p>	
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	
<p>The Public Governance Committee would like to highlight the following to the Board from its meeting held on 17 November 2020:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Chairs Update:</u></b> This was the first time the Committee has met since February 2020 as a result of COVID-19. As a result under the Chairs Update item the approved Terms of Reference, Annual Report to the Board and Workplan for 2021 were circulated to remind attendees of these.</li> <li>• <b><u>Review of the Last 9 Months:</u></b> The Committee received an update from June Smyth with regards to public involvement and engagement activities undertaken since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included confirmation of what engagement continued since the last meeting of the committee, what has been paused and a look to the future including the reference to a refreshed Public Involvement &amp; Engagement Strategy with a focus on improved evaluation of involvement and engagement activities. Attendees of the Committee meeting offered their support with future engagement activities and in particular in order to engage with individuals and organisations on the impact that COVID-19 has had on the wider public. In particular, the impact on carers of COVID-19 and decisions made during the pandemic was raised. It was noted at the Committee that concerns had been raised prior to the pandemic on engagement and involvement with carers in particular. The Chair of the Committee is exploring this further with the Board Executive Team and has asked that a report be prepared on engagement levels with carers for the previous 12 months to be presented to the next Committee meeting.</li> </ul>	

- **Business Unit Updates:** It was agreed at the meeting that moving forward each Business Unit would be invited to attend and update the Committee on activities relating to public involvement and engagement activities as a regular item. This would ensure the Committee were sighted regularly on issues relating to each Unit rather than on a project by project basis. This will commence from the next meeting.
- **Business Unit Updates - Primary & Community Services:** Chris Myers, General Manager of Primary & Community Services (P&CS) provided an update to the Committee relating to Duns Medical Group. It was noted that this GP Practice had provided notice of their intention to resign from providing General Medical Services effective 31 March 2020, due to the retirements of the remaining two GP Partners, and ongoing difficulties recruiting and retaining GP Partners. Chris Myers noted that NHS Borders has a duty to comply with our public engagement duties under section 2B of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, as referenced in CEL4 (2010). He outlined the high-level communications and engagement approach to be adopted in line with this, along with the next steps of the overall process relating to Duns Medical Group.

<b>Impact of item/issues on:</b>	
<b>Strategic Context</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Patient Safety/Clinical Impact</b>	As set out above
<b>Staffing/Workforce</b>	As set out above
<b>Finance/Resources</b>	As set out above
<b>Risk Implications</b>	As set out above
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	Compliant
<b>Consultation</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Glossary</b>	Not Applicable