Borders NHS Board

Meeting Date: 1 April 2021

Approved by:	Mr Tris Taylor, Chair, Public Governance Committee
Author:	Mrs June Smyth, Director of Planning & Performance

PUBLIC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Purpose of Report:

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.

Recommendations:

The Board is asked to **note** the update from the Public Governance Committee.

Approval Pathways:

This report has been prepared for the Board.

Executive Summary:

The Public Governance Committee would like to highlight the following to the Board from its meeting held on 23 February 2021:

- **Chairs Update:** Tris Taylor shared with the committee the letter to Karen Hamilton, Chair of NHS Borders and the response received from Ralph Roberts, Chief Executive, regarding the needs of unpaid carers as discussed at the previous meeting. The discussion which followed highlighted some further examples of where it was felt unpaid carers had not been involved in discussions regarding proposed service changes before decisions were made. A number of steps were outlined by officers on the approach that has been / will be introduced moving forward, which was welcomed by members.

- **Public Involvement & Engagement Update:** The Committee received a quarterly activity update from Clare Oliver, Head of Communications & Engagement where she outlined that she was reassessing the approach to involvement and engagement with a view to improving this by expanding our public involvement networks and addressing any gaps. This includes a proposal under consideration to create a reference group of up to 200 people to enable full and fair representation from the public and partners in voluntary sector within the Borders to support engagement activities within NHS Borders. Alongside this the team now have regular meetings with our partners and across SBC to explore closer working opportunities and to explore co-production opportunities. Clare also highlighted that the timescales for addressing the actions relating to the 2019 Internal Audit report on Public Involvement & Engagement had slipped due to COVID-19. She and the

team would use the expanded networks and activities as outlined above to address these actions over 2021/22. Members expressed concern about the work that was deferred during the pandemic but welcomed the approach outlined for moving forward.

- **Health Inequalities Programme Post COVID-19:** Phillip Lunts, Strategic Planning Lead & Fiona Doig, Head of Health Improvement/Strategic Lead – ADP attended and shared a presentation on Health Inequalities and learning from the lessons of the pandemic and outlined current thinking on the development of an enhanced programme to tackle inequalities, at the heart of which would be significant engagement and a co-production approach. It was noted by the Committee that a proposal regarding the programme would be taken to the April meeting of NHS Borders Board.

- **Business Unit Updates - Primary & Community Services:** Chris Myers, General Manager P&CS attended to provide an update on the public involvement and engagement activities undertaken as part of the work to consider options for patients registered with Duns Medical Group following the retirement of the Partners.   This extensive piece of work was undertaken in partnership with members of the public, patients and other stakeholders and was commended by Healthcare Improvement Scotland Community Engagement colleagues.

- **Scottish Health Council / Health Improvement Scotland (HIS) Community Engagement Update:** Derek Blues, Engagement Programmes Manager (East) attended from HIS to provide an update on HIS activities nationally, many of which included stakeholders from the Scottish Borders and outlined the continued local resources in place to support public involvement and engagement activities.

The meeting was unfortunately not quorate but as there were no formal items to approval the Chair agreed the meeting could proceed.

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