

Agenda Item 10

Overview of Local Oversight Arrangements



Falkirk IJB Clinical and Care Governance Committee

28 August 2020

Overview of Local Oversight Arrangements

For Noting

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of local oversight arrangements that are relevant to the Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).
- 1.2 Members may also want to consider the format of the report and note that this can be developed as required.

2. Recommendations

The Clinical and Care Governance Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 note the contents of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The report presents to the CCGC a summary of local oversight arrangements that operate at a Forth Valley and Falkirk level. It is intended to provide assurance to the Committee members of these arrangements, as relevant to the scope of the HSCP.

4. Forth Valley Public Protection Chief Officers Meeting

- 4.1 Public Protection Chief Officers Groups (COGs) have a statutory duty to protect the most vulnerable by providing leadership, governance and effective oversight of public protection arrangements within each local authority area. COGs are collectively accountable for public protection and have, as a minimum, Chief Officer representation from the Local Authority (Chief Executive of the Council); Police Scotland (usually the Area Commander); NHS Board (Chief Executive or designated Chief Officer); Health and Social Care Partnership (usually the Chief Officer/Director); and the Chief Social Work Officer for the Council. Through the committee structures reporting into COGs, critical relationships are also maintained with Education and the Third and Independent Sectors.
- 4.2 The current national Covid-19 situation has meant that Local Authorities and their partners have had to prioritise their essential duties which includes protecting the vulnerable. Local authorities and their partners are working

together by taking a “whole systems approach” to protecting our most vulnerable people. COGs have a central role in the oversight and direction of risk management in respect of vulnerability and public protection during the Covid-19 national response. It was decided in April 2020 that in order to maximise the optimum conditions for COG at the height of the crisis, the Falkirk group would merge with the Stirling/Clackmannanshire group to form one Forth Valley Chief Officers Public Protection Group. To date the Forth Valley COG has met 3 times at a frequency of 6 weekly meetings. It is chaired by Falkirk Council Chief Executive Officer and the agenda is set by the 3 Chief Social Work Officers.

4.3 The remit of the group is to provide strategic leadership and scrutiny on work that relates to Public Protection across Forth Valley. The key routine activity areas overseen by COGs are:

- Child Protection
- Adult Support & Protection
- Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (offender management for sexual and violent offenders)
- Violence Against Women Partnerships
- Alcohol & Drug Partnerships
- Human Trafficking
- Evidence based prioritisation of action in order to respond proactively to emerging data.

4.4 Additionally, the group has the freedom to scrutinise any area of public protection which they deem relevant.

4.5 Chief Officers are responsible for ensuring that constituent agencies, individually and collectively, agree and disseminate a clear vision, shared values and aims that promote work to protect children, young people, vulnerable adults, the wider community and reduce reoffending as effectively as possible. That vision should clearly highlight the desired outcomes for Public Protection and be linked to the key processes required to achieve those outcomes.

4.6 Chief Officers should demonstrate effective collaborative working to discharge their responsibilities and consistently promote effective joint working within and across services.

4.7 The recent agenda items for the COG, as relevant to the IJB and HSCP include:

4.8 **Forth Valley Position on Non-Fatal Overdose (NFO) and Strategic Response**

Research findings and actions were presented and given consideration from Chief Officers. It was noted there was valuable learning being taken from the research and agreement that equivalent work will be undertaken in Clackmannanshire and Stirling. Learning should continue to be shared and taken forward across Forth Valley.

- 4.9 **Scottish Government Weekly Public Protection Data Reporting**
A report provided recorded that Scottish Government recently established national datasets for Children and Adult Public Protection for weekly reporting during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose of the datasets is to help inform discussions between senior leaders in Solace, COSLA and the Scottish Government in relation to the impact of Covid-19 on service provision. Scrutiny and leadership of performance data is a requirement of COG and consideration is required as to how this data is used.
- 4.10 **MAPPA Update and Quarterly Report**
A report presented to COG noted multi-agency work undertaken over recent months has resulted in efficient and robust management of offenders which has been beneficial to the community and to the offenders' wellbeing.
- 4.11 Other agenda items include:
- Early Release of Certain Prisoners
 - Domestic Abuse – National and Local Perspective
 - Public Protection Awareness Raising
 - Forth Valley Care Home Oversight arrangements
 - FV COG COVID-19 Risk Register.

5. Falkirk Adult Protection Committee (APC)

- 5.1 A working group has been established looking at the needs of younger adults with a diagnosis of mild learning disability who are subject to repeat adult protection referrals and where harm is often occurring within the same social networks.
- 5.2 Group members are reporting into Committee on the analysis of these cases and recommendations for both necessary statutory intervention and what earlier intervention and preventative work we could be promoting to avoid repeat episodes of harm.
- 5.3 Falkirk Learning Disability Team (FLDT) are working creatively to respond to the needs associated with risk in these cases and are supported by the ASP lead officer to negotiate universal services which is often the preferred pathway for younger adults with mild intellectual disability. We are learning that on account of a diagnosis of learning disability adults are often referred straight into the tier of FLDT, missing lower level community based resilience activity. This results in a disconnect from their communities and perpetuates the contexts which lead to repeat referrals. Falkirk Learning Disability Team have also attended the August APC to present a complex case which involves different elements of Mental Health legislation.

5.4 Other items on APC agenda include:

- Review of Committee Partnership Plan COVID-19
- eIRD implementation update.

6. NHS FV Clinical Governance Arrangements

6.1 NHS FV Clinical Governance Committee (CGC)

The purpose of the CGC is to provide the NHS Board with:

- Systems Assurance to ensure that clinical governance and information governance mechanisms are in place and effective throughout the local NHS system
- Public Health Governance to ensure that the principals and standards of clinical governance are applied to the health improvement and health protection activities of the NHS Board.

6.2 The membership of the committee consists of Non-Executive and Executive members of the NHS board, the Chair of the Area Clinical Forum and members of the NHS Forth Valley Public Involvement Network as well as other committee members.

6.3 The committee has responsibilities which include ensuring that all elements of the Clinical Governance Strategy is implemented effectively and efficiently across the system, ensuring that appropriate standards of clinical governance are being applied to health improvement and health protection activities of the board as well as promoting positive complaints handling, advocacy and feedback including learning from adverse events and near misses.

6.4 Clinical Governance Working Group (CGWG)

The CGWG is accountable to the CGC for the delivery of a robust system of clinical governance and risk management. The CGWG fulfils its remit by receiving and considering information and documents which provide this assurance. The CGWG is chaired by the Medical Director and a membership which includes the Director of Nursing, Head of Clinical Governance and representatives from the Directorates.

6.5 The information and documents are reviewed and discussed under the following headings:

- In our services, is care safe today?
- Is our care Person Centred?
- Are we learning & improving?
- Are our systems reliable?

A variety of reports are presented at each of the meetings with annual reports providing a comprehensive end of year summary of safe care.

- 6.6 The pandemic meant that NHS Forth Valley Clinical Governance processes were modified to the emergency footing of the NHS in response to the fast moving COVID-19 environment. Usual governance structures were stood down to allow teams the capacity to reorganise and prepare for the rapid transformation of pathways to support Covid-19 patients. A separate report on these processes and activities is included on the agenda, Clinical Governance Covid-19 Highlight report.
- 6.7 Additional Clinical Governance processes were put in place to provide assurance that safety and managing risk were the overriding priority at this time. An example of these additional safety measures were:
- Executive safety walk rounds to Covid-19 pressure points
 - Flash reports from all areas providing assurance of safe care
 - Ethics Advisory Group established. The CCGC received a report and presentation on the group at its June meeting.

7. Care Home Assurance

- 7.1 The CCGC received a detailed report at its meeting in June that set out the care home assurance arrangements in response to Covid-19. This includes the Forth Valley Strategic Oversight Assurance Group. The membership of this group includes the Director of Public Health, Medical Director, Executive Director of Nursing (chair), the Chief Social Work Officers and the Chief Officers. The remit of the FV Assurance Group is to provide assurance to the Chief Executives of the Councils and NHS regarding professional support, quality of care being provided in care homes and the safety and wellbeing of residents. They ensure the national reporting requirements and operational framework are being delivered by the Care Home Strategy Group.
- 7.2 The Care Home Strategy Group includes representation from Public Health, Professional Nursing Leadership, Falkirk HSCP, Clackmannanshire and Stirling HSCP, Care Inspectorate, Scottish Care and Infection Control and Prevention Team. Daily reports from care homes and care assurance are scrutinised by the group,
- 7.3 Data is collected each day from a number of sources to ensure a clear picture of the status of care homes and includes information from routine assurance visits; results from enhanced testing; and feedback from clinicians actively treating symptomatic residents. This is reviewed by the Care Home Strategy Group and ensures a high level of surveillance and the identification of any actions required where necessary to ensure support is provided to our care homes.
- 7.4 The Strategy group reports directly to the FV Strategic Oversight Assurance Group, providing assurance on actions taken to support our care homes. Where the Care Home Strategy Group believes there is a significant issue that requires onward escalation – i.e., which cannot easily be resolved

through routine local reporting and support mechanisms, this is reported to the Assurance group. It can then be escalated by the Executive Nurse Director and Director of Public Health to the Chief Executives of the Health Board and Local Authority. Such issues will also be escalated to the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Government, and ultimately if required, to use emergency powers held by Ministers.

- 7.5 National Guidance is disseminated and compliance checked. A weekly report on Covid status in Care Homes is submitted to Scottish Government from this group.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 This report provides a summary of the relevant oversight arrangements and meetings for the CCGC.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Impact on IJB Outcomes and Priorities

The meetings represented in the report will ensure oversight of key areas and provide assurance to the IJB on the delivery of services in line with the Strategic Plan.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal and risk implications arising from this report.

Consultation

There are no consultation implications arising from this report.

Equalities Assessment

There are no equality implications arising from this report.

9. Author Signature

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10. List of Background Papers

Meeting agendas as noted in the report.

11. Appendices

n/a