

## **SE23. Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership**

The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer, Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership which provided a summary of the progress made by the Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) since the last update to the Scrutiny Committee on 7 March 2019.

The report provided updates on:-

- Falkirk IJB scrutiny arrangements
- The IJB Audit and Clerical and Care Governance committees
- The 2018/Annual Audit report findings
- The Health and Social care partnerships (HSCP) strategic plan
- The national review of progress with integration of Health and social care
- Local progress with integration
- The financial position
- Falkirk Carers Strategy
- The Falkirk HSCP Annual performance report for 2018/19
- The IJB performance monitoring report for June 2018 – June 2019

The report provided:

- recent information contained in the IJB reports;
- the Annual Performance Report 2018 – 19;
- the Performance Monitoring Report presented to the Integration Joint Board on 6 September 2019;
- summary updates from the Integration Joint Board Audit Committee and Clinical and Care Governance Committee.

Patricia Cassidy gave a detailed overview of the report, highlighting the findings of the Annual Audit report by the external auditors, Ernst and Young. The auditors had found that the pace of integration had fallen significantly short of expectations. A number of improvement points had been identified around financial sustainability, governance and transparency, and value for money.

Following a question in regard to sickness absence, Ms Cassidy stated that an initiative to employ a temporary HR officer had resulted in improvements and as a consequence the HSCP had invested in the resource.

Following a question on the reduction in waiting time for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Ms Cassidy responded that credit was due to the Health Board.

The convener returned to the Auditor's report and recommendations in regard to financial sustainability and asked whether there would be an overspend in 2019/20. Ms Cassidy explained that currently, the HSCP did not manage services and didn't have the required oversight. Once integration had taken place the HSCP would be better able to manage

resources. However as the auditors had noted integration had not taken place at a satisfactory pace. Both the Health Board and Council operated within different financial systems. The Board could effect its spend although it was effected by factors which were not within its control, which effected its ability to remain in budget. A number of factors were outwith the Health Board's control, which affected its budget, including the introduction of new drugs or drugs coming out of patent. In terms of the budget, the Health Board had a projected overspend. She explained that in terms of a previous Risk Sharing Agreement both the Health Board and Council undertook to manage their respective budgets and contain any overspends. Overspends in the Adult Services side had been reversed and savings had been delivered. However an overspend was projected for the Health Board. It had not been possible to get a Risk Sharing Agreement agreed by the Health Board for this year.

The committee discussed delayed discharge and asked why this was, despite a number of initiatives, still an issue. Again Ms Cassidy stated that until the services were integrated the HSCP was restricted in its ability to address a number of issues. For example there were still instances of patients in hospital being assessed as needing care by their consultant during crisis situations. This should not happen and was completely at odds with the national position. There was a higher rate of admissions into care homes in Falkirk compared to Scotland and people were admitted younger than before. She stated that there was a need to keep people at home for as long as possible. The current practice within hospitals did not support this – the consultant in hospital had the final say. The role of the HSCP was to change this culture and cited the 'Home First' trial as a way forward.

## **Decision**

**The Committee noted the report and progress by the HSCP in meeting its priorities under the Strategic Plan.**