

Agenda Item 12

National Publications



Falkirk IJB Clinical and Care Governance Committee

24 March 2023

National Publications

For Consideration and Comment

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of national reports relevant to the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) that have been published since the previous Clinical and Care Governance Committee (CCGC) meeting held on 25 November 2022.
- 1.2 A total of 8 reports have been published.

2. Recommendations

The Clinical and Care Governance Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 consider and comment on the content of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 Since June 2020, the Clinical and Care Governance Committee has received an overview report noting where there have been publications of relevance to the HSCP. This arrangement recognised that national publications may need to be considered across a wide range of settings (such as the IJB or Audit Committee) dependent on the nature of the report and the associated recommendations.
- 3.2 Where reports are not considered by the IJB or Audit Committee, a summary of the reports will be included in the overview report.
- 3.3 Committee members can highlight if they think that more detailed consideration of any report is required, and if so, what the appropriate reporting route would be.

4. National Reports

- 4.1 The following table lists the national reports that have been issued since the last meeting of the CCGC.

Author	Title of Report	Publication Date
Care Inspectorate	Inquiry into adult carers' experiences of social work and social care services	7 December 2022
Scottish Government	National Carers Strategy	21 December 2022
Mental Health Foundation	Mental Health and the Cost-of-Living Crisis: Another pandemic in the making?	January 2023
Scottish Government	Drug Death Taskforce Response: A Cross Government Approach	12 January 2023
Scottish Government	National Care Service: Contextual paper	20 January 2023
Scottish Government	Women's Health Plan: Progress Report	26 January 2023
Care Inspectorate	Safe Staffing Programme	6 February 2023
Audit Scotland	NHS in Scotland 2022	23 February 2023

- 4.2 [Inquiry into adult carers' experience of social work and social care services](#)
The Care Inspectorate undertook an inquiry into adult carers' experiences of adult social work and social care services. The report highlights the need for improvement in support of adult unpaid carers and makes a series of recommendations. Inspectors from the Care Inspectorate carried out this work between March and July 2022.
- 4.3 It is estimated that there are about 800,000 adult carers in Scotland who provide unpaid care for another adult. Carers make a vital contribution to the social care system across Scotland. The report found that caring can have a negative impact on carers' physical and mental health and wellbeing, because of caring without all the support they needed.
- 4.4 For those carers who had an ongoing, trusting relationship with a social work staff member this helped them feel understood, valued and supported. When carers were involved with local carers' organisations, commissioned by health and social care partnerships, they had positive experiences.
- 4.5 The report sets out areas for improvement by health and social care partnerships that it is hoped will help improve services and support for unpaid carers across Scotland. These included improving access to and availability of short breaks for carers, and promoting awareness of their rights, including access to an adult care support plan.

4.6 [National Carers Strategy](#)

The National Carers Strategy sets out a range of actions the Scottish Government will take to ensure carers are fully supported in a joined up and cohesive way. The strategy brings together existing approaches and new initiatives. The strategy aims to drive long-term, sustainable systemic change to how carers are valued and supported. This will help to recognise and mitigate the potential wellbeing, economic and social risks of caring.

- 4.7 The strategy will cover activity during the current Scottish Parliament to Spring 2026 but will be reviewed annually to monitor progress. The key themes of the strategy intend to put the individual carer at the centre and focus on five different aspects of unpaid carer support: Living with Covid-19; Recognising, valuing and involving carers; Health & Social Care support; Social and financial inclusion, and; Young carers.

4.8 [Drug Death Taskforce Response: A Cross Government Approach](#)

In 2019 the Scottish Government established the Drug Deaths Taskforce to provide independent expert advice and guidance to address the high levels of drug-related deaths in Scotland. The Taskforce final report, Changing Lives, set out 20 recommendations and 139 action points. The cross-government approach is a response to those recommendations.

- 4.9 The cross-government action plan highlights the wide range of areas which have mobilised to support the National Mission and respond to the challenges set by the Taskforce. The approach sets out over 80 actions, including existing and new initiatives, and details ways that policy and delivery will be refocused to better support the needs of people who use drugs. This plan includes a spending commitment totalling over £68 million over the remainder of the parliament. The final section of this publication presents the Stigma Action Plan.

4.10 [Mental Health and the Cost-of-Living Crisis: Another pandemic in the making?](#)

This policy briefing paper provides an overview of the current and likely effects of the Cost-of-Living Crisis on mental health. The paper highlights that poverty and financial stress are likely to rise over the next few years. People living in financial stress are at increased risk of mental health problems and lower mental wellbeing.

- 4.11 The paper sets out a top four recommendations for the UK and devolved governments to address the mental health effects of poverty and financial stress. The report also recommends four wider measures.

4.12 [National Care Service: Contextual paper](#)

This paper describes the current status of social work in Scotland. It forms part of a collection of papers setting out key information about social care and related areas linked to the development of the National Care Service.

4.13 [Women's Health Plan: Progress Report](#)

The Women's Health Plan aims to improve health outcomes and health services for all women and girls in Scotland. This is the first progress report on short-term actions to date and provides an update on medium-term actions where progress is already being made. The ambition of the plan is:

- Healthcare for women will be holistic, inclusive, respectful, centred around the individual and responsive to their needs and choices.
- Women will be provided with consistent, reliable and accessible information empowering them to make informed decisions about their health and healthcare.
- All professionals involved in delivering health and social care services will work closely together to improve care for women.
- Healthcare for women with complex needs, including those with additional social support requirements, will be delivered innovatively, including jointly with third sector support where appropriate

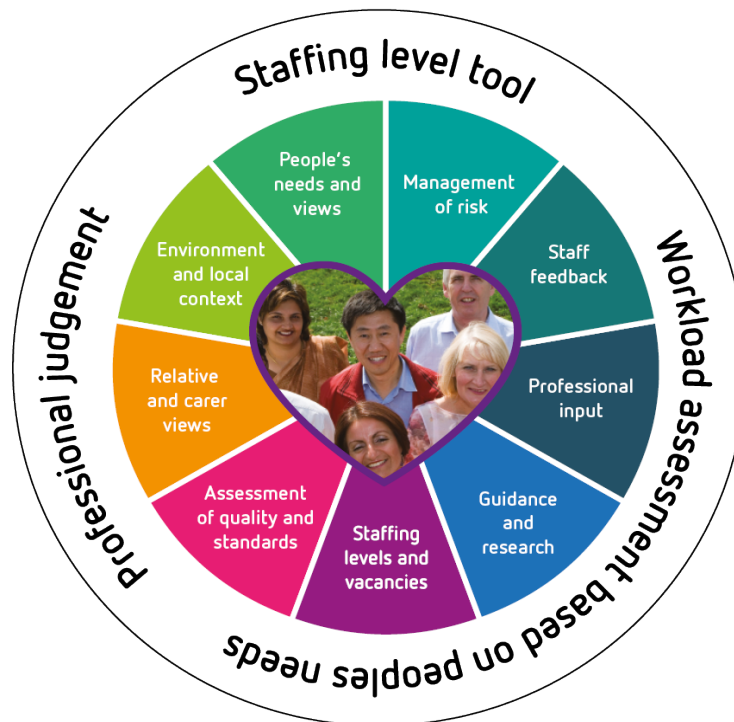
4.14 [Safe Staffing Programme](#)

The Scottish Government have commissioned the Care Inspectorate to consult with a range of people and stakeholders about a staffing method for use in care homes for adults. This is to prepare for the enactment of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019 in 2024.

4.15 Following consultations with a range of adult care homes and key stakeholders, the Care Inspectorate have developed a staffing method framework. The framework has been tested in 15 care homes during 2022. Feedback was collected during the testing phase that supported the continual development of this. The Care Inspectorate are now consulting on the next version of the draft of the staffing method framework.

4.16 The Staffing Method Framework sets out a number of principles for health and care staffing. Staffing for health and care services is to be arranged while:

- providing safe and high-quality services
- ensuring the best health and care outcomes for people
- ensuring the wellbeing of staff
- being open with staff and people about decisions on staffing
- allocating staff efficiently
- promoting multi-disciplinary services as appropriate
- taking account of views of people and staff
- respecting the dignity and rights of people
- taking account of peoples' needs, abilities, characteristics and circumstances
- improving standards and outcomes for people



4.17 The Partnership has considered the framework and submitted a response through the online consultation survey.

4.18 [NHS in Scotland 2022](#)

The NHS in Scotland 2022 follows the 2020 and 2021 reports where Scottish Government and NHS boards' responses to the Covid-19 pandemic were examined, including the impact on both service delivery and the financial position of the NHS. The 2022 report contains 4 key messages and a series of recommendations. The key messages are:

- Growing financial pressures present a real risk to the investment needed to recover and reform NHS services – inflation, recurring pay pressures; ongoing Covid-19 related costs, rising energy costs and a growing capital maintenance backlog are making a financial position that was already difficult even more challenging. This could limit investment in recovery and reform.
- It is difficult to accurately measure the progress of the Scottish Government's NHS Recovery Plan - the plan commits £1.26 billion of funding to help reduce the healthcare backlog and redesign services but it is a high-level, top-down document and does not contain the detailed actions that would allow overall progress to be accurately measured. The Audit Scotland report highlights issues with waiting times and delayed discharges as examples of areas where progress is difficult to determine.
- Workforce capacity remains the biggest risk to the recovery of NHS services – the Audit Scotland report notes the NHS workforce remains under severe pressure and there are concerns over staffing

levels, wellbeing and retention. These issues predate the pandemic. The NHS Recovery Plan was not informed by robust modelling and there is a risk workforce targets will not be achieved with the NHS continuing to experience high vacancy and turnover rates, higher than usual sickness absence and gaps in the workforce.

- The Scottish Government needs to be fully transparent on recovery progress and how long people will have to wait for treatment – this is linked to all three key points above. The report notes that Scottish Government will have to make difficult choices and prioritise which ambitions it can deliver against.

- 4.19 The report includes 5 recommendations for Scottish Government to solely progress and 4 recommendations for Scottish Government to jointly progress with NHS Boards. The recommendations include medium-term financial planning, demand and capacity modelling, tackling backlogs, a focus on staff retention, collaborative working and public engagement. The recommendations recognise the need to work with partners in the social care sector to progress a long-term, sustainable solution for reducing delayed discharges from hospital.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The report lists the national reports that have been issued since the last meeting of the CCGC.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Impact on IJB Outcomes and Priorities

The national reports provide standards and recommendations that the IJB can assess itself against to ensure delivery of the Strategic Plan.

Directions

A new Direction or an amendment to an existing Direction is not required.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report. The key implications relate to the potential risk of harm to service users, financial and reputational risk arising from failure to consider the findings of national reports.

Consultation

There are no consultation requirements arising from this report.

Equalities Assessment

EPIA reference: 00400

An initial EPIA has been completed and a full EPIA is not required. This paper provides an overview of publications for Committee to note. The

Committee is not being asked to make a decision which will impact people, therefore a full EPIA is not required.

Should the HSCP progress with any of the recommendations contained within the publications, an EPIA may be required in that instance.

6. Report Author

- 6.1 David Keenan, HSCP Governance Support Officer
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7. List of Background Papers

- 7.1 Reports as noted.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None.