

Scottish Borders Health & Social Care
Integration Joint Board



Meeting Date: 28 January 2019

Report By	Robert McCulloch-Graham, Chief Officer Health & Social Care
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CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Purpose of Report:	To inform the Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board (IJB) of the activity undertaken by the Chief Officer since the last meeting.
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Recommendations:	The Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board is asked to: a) Note the report.
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Personnel:	Not Applicable
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Carers:	Not Applicable
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Equalities:	Not Applicable
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Financial:	Not Applicable
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Legal:	Not Applicable
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Risk Implications:	Not Applicable
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Chief Officer Report

Queen's House

I am delighted to inform the IJB of the progress being made with the allocation of beds at Murray House the new development opened by Queens's house for individuals with substantial care and nursing needs. This commission has already substantially reduced pressure across both Cauldshiels Ward and Melbourne Lodge; this in itself has supported the wider hospital population as well.

This arrangement has also opened up the opportunity for further co-working with Queens House with regards to training and research for our most vulnerable, within the Borders.

Hawick Care Company

On a not so positive issue, we have had notification from Hawick Care Company of their intention to cease operating. We have had assurance that they will continue to care for those people already providing a service for until such time that they no longer require care or new arrangements have been put in place. A mini tender exercise has been begun to find replacement services.

St Phillips

Continuing this theme of reducing private sector provision within the Borders, St Phillips Care Home Provider indicated their intention to reduce the status of the care they provide from "full nursing care" to "enhanced care". This is due entirely to their inability to recruit nurses. Senior Managers have negotiated with their executive to slow their implementation of such a change and are working with them to introduce a further model of nurse provision.

Both of these private sector decisions reflect the vulnerability of the care sector within the Borders, and the need for our own directly commissioned services and provision to react quickly to need and engage at a senior level with local and national providers. It remains a worrying issue and one which needs addressing through future commissioning of care and resource allocation.

Adult Social Care Appointments

Discussions remain on-going regarding the appointment of a permanent Chief Officer for Adult Services after the initial round of recruitment was unsuccessful. I am however pleased to report that we have successfully appointed Brian Paris as Group Manager for Social Services, started his new post on 21st January. Brian comes with a range of very successful experience in Social Care from Mid and East Lothian, it was a unanimous decision and Brian, I am sure, will make a great addition to the team.

Clinical Productivity

We have commenced an extensive review of operations within the patient pathway from hospital to home care. This review will seek to identify ways in which these services can be assisted in their day to day operations. These services operate local services in the main, and require a great deal of logistical management and coordination. Meridian a productivity, analytical consultancy have been commissioned to lead this important work.

We expect a detailed commentary on existing systems and processes along with identified areas for operational improvement. We are expecting to enter into a series of commissioning exercises later in the year and this work will greatly inform the criteria for future contracting.

Strata

Has been operational now for four months and is working through the START team and the Matching Unit. Participation from both teams has been good and the work welcomed. We are still awaiting a full evaluation which will inform a future deliberation on whether we should continue to invest for the long term. A further visit has been arranged for managers to examine STRATA's work in Cumbria which has been operational for a number of years, across both Health and Social Services.

Regional Work

My focus on regional work at present remains on the development of a regional response to reducing the prevalence of type 2 diabetes. To this end I will be hosting a workshop/seminar tomorrow on reducing childhood obesity and diabetes. We are expecting around 40 delegates from Fife, Edinburgh, the three Lothians as well as the Borders. With invited speakers giving the national picture from Health Scotland, local speakers will give details of needs and good practice from each of the Health and Social Care Partnerships

Kelso Medical Practice

I joined the Kelso Practice business meeting to meet with the local GPs and their Practice manager. As well as discussing the IJB's strategic plan I was able to hear first-hand of the local issues facing our GPs. This is one of our largest practices in the Borders and they are already involved extensively within their local community, beyond their GP duties.

We did talk extensively around the Cheviot Model which operates across their locality. Whilst I have reported previously on this work to the IJB and extolled its virtues, all of which are shared and supported by the practice, they did raise concerns about the departure of staff.

As we have seen elsewhere in Border services their scale is often small, and the departure of one or two staff has a disproportionate impact if we are not able to back fill these positions quickly. We will be doing that as soon as we are able, as the model remains an important one and its success is one we wish to emulate across the Borders.

Winter Pressures

I am writing this paragraph with great caution and a bit of trepidation that I might be tempting fate. The pressure on both BGH and the Community Hospitals over the festive period was much reduced this year. This was as a result of all of actions, the full range of NHS and Council services, have been undertaking within the Winter Plan.

Garden View (previously known as Craw Wood) has now increased its capacity to 23 beds as planned and Hospital to Home is now operational across the whole of the Scottish Borders. Processes have been smoothed and new monitoring and early warning arrangements are having a positive impact.

The trepidation remains however, that we are still at the start of winter, and pressures will build further, but I did think it worth reporting that services and agencies are doing what they said they would, and we are in a much better position than last year, as we leave the festive part of winter behind.

We are however still touching wood, crossing fingers and avoiding any leaning ladders until at least the middle of March.

We will be incorporating a report on the festive period within the wider report on winter practice to the IJB later in the spring.

Rob McCulloch-Graham
January 2019