

Meeting: Highland Health & Social Care Committee
Meeting date: 29th June 2022
Title: Chief Officer Assurance Report
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive: Louise Bussell, Chief Officer
Report Author: Louise Bussell, Chief Officer

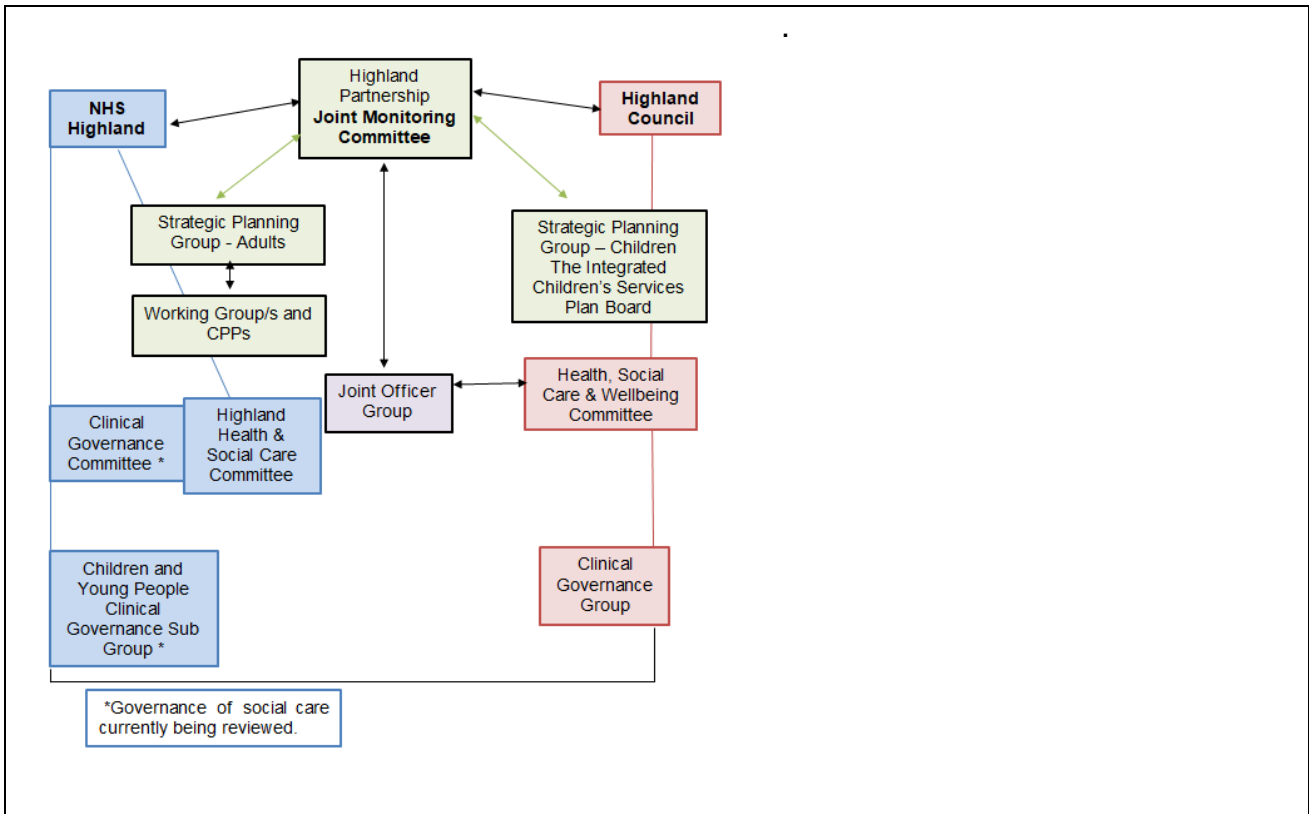
1. Purpose

To provide assurance and updates on key areas of Health and Social Care in Highland.

2: Highland Health and Social Care Partnership – Integrated Adult Services Strategic Plan Development

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 requires integration authorities to prepare a Strategic Plan that sets out the arrangements for integration functions and how these will achieve the national health and wellbeing outcomes. Following presentation of a proposed approach to developing the Strategic Plan to the Joint Officer Group, a working group has been established to support progress with participation from a range of expertise across sectors and experiences. The monthly working group commenced in April and the ambition is to produce a full draft of the plan by December 2022 which will be followed by a period of consultation. Sessions to date have focussed on discussing the scope and format of the plan where the group reviewed an example of a Strategic Plan and considered the needs of the final outcome to ensure connection and accessibility of the plan for communities, workforce and partners; collating national standards and policies informing the plan and developing a contents structure to enable an action tracker to be developed; and designing an engagement process and approach in creating the plan being mindful of wider engagement and consultation asks that have taken place, are ongoing or planned.

Preparations are also underway to re-establish the formal Strategic Planning Group (SPG) in July/August. The formal group will meet quarterly replacing every fourth working group session. Members of the working group have been invited to join the formal SPG and wider membership will be sought to ensure representation following that prescribed in the legislation. The working group will report to the SPG and following completion of the Strategic Plan, the SPG will then support and monitor progress and account to the Joint Monitoring Committee and NHS Highland and The Highland Council's strategic committees will be informed of updates for noting.



3. Annual Delivery Plan

Work is well underway on the Annual Delivery plan (ADP) for the Board which will take forward the strategic intentions set out in Together We Care once it is finalised. It is essential that the ADP focuses on how to achieve our ambitions for the future. The community Divisional leadership team have been actively engaged in this work with leads identified in relation to the intention descriptions for each of the overarching ambitions.

4. Community Risk Register

A review of risk registers for HHSCP is ongoing across the areas of North Highland Community Services; Mental Health Services; Out of Hours Services; and Primary Care Services. Key risk areas arise in workforce, accommodation and affordability / financial risk across all areas and further mitigation work is required to be undertaken to assure progress against risks.

An accommodation group has been set up in partnership with Estates to progress accommodation risks and a key area of focus is sexual health services relocation, Ross Memorial Hospital maintenance backlog and fire compliance; and Assynt House agile working arrangements to ensure all staff have allocated and accessible desk spaces. There is ongoing work at New Craigs Hospital in terms of reconfiguration for ligature reduction work, older adult environment redesign and learning disability services relocation. The New Craigs site is being further developed to promote inclusivity of a wide range of services out with MHL and reduce stigma. Some discussions are being undertaken about central location in Inverness to develop a 'Health Village' to create accessibility for some services that have access risks. Primary Care has accommodation risks that are being identified to be addressed.

Workforce is a risk across the Division in relation to recruitment and retention with a number of substantive nursing, AHP and medical vacancies across North Highland community. There are financial risks in terms of locum workforce costs and plans being developed to deliver financial savings to mitigate against overspends and overall Board financial position.

For assurance to HHSCC a monthly meeting is held to review risks and ensure all services are covered and risks recorded on the DATIX system is now well established. All risks are being reviewed on an ongoing basis and mitigation plans are being updated accordingly.

5. Covid Update

Widespread population testing for COVID has now ceased and so it is not possible to be certain of community prevalence of COVID in local areas. However, other information such as the ONS UK survey and information collected from sewage sampling indicates that COVID rates are considerably lower than they were a few weeks ago but there is still circulating infection. Effects on health and social care are still present, but at a much lower level than before. The spring booster vaccination programme continues with uptake of around 80% among people aged over 75.

6. Skye Update

There is significant focus on Skye at this time. The new Hospital at Broadford is now fully up and running and the official opening of both this and the new Hospital at Badenoch and Strathspey took place in May with Cabinet Secretary Humza Yousaf opening both facilities. Initial feedback from users of the new hospitals is very positive.

In relation to north Skye there are a number of key challenges at this time. Firstly, Crossreach have given notice to NHS Highland of their intention to close Budhmor care home. There has been a significant level of concern expressed about this by families and politicians and at the time of writing the notice period has been extended to the end of July from the end of June whilst further dialogue takes place.

Secondly, unfortunately the Urgent Care service at Portree Hospital has had to be suspended due to a significant loss of staff making the limited service that had been running for the last few weeks untenable. The service are working on a plan to re-establish the service and in the meantime the service is being provided in Broadford with the option of clinicians to see and treat people in their own homes as part of the service provision.

Finally, Sir Lewis Ritchie returned to Skye to review progress in relation to his previous recommendations with a subsequent report on this due out in the coming weeks. We are aware the ongoing challenges about urgent care, bed capacity and community engagement work will be a focus of his report. In relation to this latter point, work continues on the medium to long term future of services on Skye with the Scottish Futures Trust coming on board to work with NHS Highland and partners including the well engaged community members.

7. Route to the Meeting

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

Executive Directors Group – DATE

Confirmation received from EDG – DATE

8. Recommendation

- **Awareness** – For Members' information only.