

Integration Joint Board

Date of Meeting: 27 May 2020

Title of Report: Chief Officer Report

Presented by: Joanna Macdonald, Chief Officer

The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- Note the following report from the Chief Officer

Mental Health Awareness Week

This year Mental Health Awareness Week is from the 18-24 May and the theme is promoting kindness. Across Argyll and Bute, people will be celebrating kindness in a range of digital and creative ways within social and physical distancing restrictions. The HSCP is helping to celebrate the campaign and is encouraging people to be kind to themselves and practice relaxation management using a self-management service “Time to Relax” provided by the HSCP’s Technology Enabled Care Team.

This is a digital service and helps people learn a relaxation technique to become more self-aware, less stressed and calmer and provides positive benefits to people’s overall physical and mental wellbeing. It is accompanied with audio guidance, soothing music and partnered with the Florence (Flo) text messaging self-management system which provides service users with a daily text message at an agreed time(s) to remind them to practice the technique.

International Nurses Day

International Nurses Day took place this year on the 12 May and we thank our nurses and midwives for all that they do each and every day and for the excellent service they provide for the people of Argyll and Bute.

It is always important that we celebrate and mark this event but it is even more important this year with the amazing work that our nursing staff are doing to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 challenges. We are very proud of them and they are a real credit to the organisation.

Chief Social Work Officer

Alex Taylor has announced that he is planning to retire later this year as Chief Social Work Officer and we would like to thank him for his many years of outstanding dedication to social work services across Argyll and Bute and we wish him a healthy, long and happy retirement when it comes.

Julie Lusk has been appointed Chief Social Work Officer and she is a qualified social worker with over 20 years experience as a senior manager and Head of Service across social work, voluntary and the private sector.

Oral Health Improvement Team

The Oral Health Improvement Team is continuing to support children and families across Argyll and Bute during what is a difficult time for everyone:

- All children receiving free school meals from their local school hubs will receive a toothbrush and toothpaste pack along with their school meal delivery.
- Health Visitor/Nursing Staff will be giving out a toothbrush, toothpaste and free flow cup pack to 0-3yrs or toothbrush/toothpaste pack to 3-6yrs olds at routine immunisation clinics. They will also give out a 3-12yr old toothbrush/toothpaste pack to any siblings in the family that they think would benefit.
- They are also busy distributing 0-3yr, 3-12yr, 13-16yr and adult toothbrush/toothpaste packs to local foodbanks to help the most vulnerable people maintain good oral health routines.

Caring for People Tactical Partnership

The HSCP continues to be heavily involved in community support planning through the Caring for People Tactical Partnership which was set up to co-ordinate urgent community support during the COVID-19 outbreak. Membership of the Partnership consists of the HSCP, Argyll and Bute Council, and the Third Sector Interface.

A huge amount of work has taken place since the Partnership was set up including a webpage on the Council website with information and resources to support safe community responses to the current situation, including Volunteering Safely Guidance and contact details of local groups.

A helpline (01546 605524) has also been developed for people who are self-isolating/vulnerable and whose usual support network is no longer available. This will ensure they will have access to food, essential supplies and support. Over 2,300 people have requested support from the helpline since it went live on the 27 March.

Midwives Pushing Delivery of Online Antenatal and Postnatal Classes

HSCP midwives are delivering innovative digital Baby Massage, Parent Education and Hypnobirthing classes using Messenger App video chat tool to stay closely connected with clients and their partners during this unusual and challenging time.

The midwives have been busy getting in touch with their clients to invite them to take part in the newly developed programme of digital classes being offered and are really pleased with the uptake and response from women across Argyll and Bute.

Hypnobirthing uses self-hypnosis, relaxation and massage to take the fear and anxiety out of giving birth. While Parent Education Classes are really important to build upon parents existing skills, and really help to improve confidence for parents to be.

Staff Wellbeing Wednesday

The importance of self care and staff health and wellbeing and sustaining our resilience is even more important at the present time. The HSCP has therefore introduced Wellbeing Wednesday to bring a weekly focus to staff wellbeing and to share useful key messages/tips about looking after yourself and maintaining and building resilience with links/signposting to online resources and support as these become available and are developed.

An HSCP Wellbeing Group has also been established and is meeting weekly to ensure provision of the resources and support that staff need. This group links closely with NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council's Wellbeing team so that resources can be shared.

A&B HSCP Staffside Update;

In response to Covid-19 the Staffside group are involved in the current Bronze/Silver Command meetings on a daily basis, the Care Homes Group and also to the daily huddles in the different areas. We have moved to holding a weekly Joint Partnership meeting so that issues can be raised timeously. A further step forward is we are linking with the Council Joint TU/HR meeting with the last half hour being dedicated to HSCP issues. This has been welcomed by all.

We have also welcomed the opportunity to comment early on the paper by Stephen Whiston on Covid-19 Looking Forward, comments have been collated and passed on. This is a great example of Partnership working.

The restrictions at the present time has led to further delays in Employee Relation cases and we are keen to work with HR on ways to make this work in a virtual world.

This crisis has brought out the very best in all staff going that "extra mile" and feeling valued, something we need to build on and recognise ensuring that their views and ideas are included for future planning.

Our aim is to continue to strengthen our Partnership input as noted above. Although we do not always agree, we can usually find a way of moving things forward together.

Fiona Broderick
Staffside Lead A&B Health
JPF.
Joint Chair of the A&B JPF.

Mary Watt
Joint Chair of the A&B