

Integration Joint Board

Agenda item:

Date of Meeting: 05 August 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

Bute Dialysis Unit Work to Restart

Building work will be restarting on the Marshall Unit (Bute Dialysis Unit) as soon as a review of any potential changes to comply with COVID-19 guidance is completed. Construction work on the unit had been suspended in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Planning Group is reconvening in August to discuss the project in more detail and finalise the remaining elements of the building work to ensure they meet the new COVID-19 arrangements. The local community will also be kept fully informed as the HSCP moves forward with the final stages of the project.

Earlier this year the Bute Kidney Patient Support Group named the new Isle of Bute Dialysis Unit “The Marshall Unit” as a lasting memory to the Marshall family. The Dr J N Marshall of Island of Bute Memorial Trust and Bute Kidney Patients Support Group, along with successful local community fundraising has provided the capital funds for this project.

“Upwards and Onwards Videos” Helping with Falls Prevention

The HSCP has been championing a series of “Upwards and Onwards” videos that feature advice, tips and information on what to do if you fall at home. The videos, are available on the NHS Inform website (www.nhsinform.scot) and show how to get up after a fall, or what to do if that isn’t possible. They feature people who’ve experienced falls themselves and also provide advice for families and carers on what to do if someone falls.

The videos also give advice on maintaining strength, balance and general fitness to help prevent falls. Building up your fitness from the comfort of your own home will help people to carry on doing the things they enjoy while

improving overall stamina and flexibility. The additional mental health benefits that come from regular exercising should not be underestimated either.

People with long-term health conditions should seek medical advice from their GP or healthcare professionals before starting the exercises.

Successful Drone Delivery Trials

The HSCP has been working with drone delivery provider Skyports to prove the feasibility of delivering urgent medical cargo, such as COVID-19 test kits and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), between medical facilities in Argyll and Bute through the use of delivery drones.

A two week trial, using the delivery drones, was recently carried out between Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban and Mull and Iona Community Hospital on the island of Mull. The trial was very successful and saw delivery times cut to around 15 minutes which will bring considerable savings in terms of time and resources.

The HSCP is delighted to be at the forefront in Scotland of using new technologies to benefit patients and the use of drones provides real opportunities to improve services and will help enable quicker diagnosis for patients.

Survey on Video Consulting Held in Argyll and Bute

People in Argyll and Bute were recently asked for their views on how health and care services might be delivered remotely in the future. This was carried out as part of an engagement exercise by the national “Near Me” team to find out what people think about how the system might be improved.

When Covid-19 commenced the HSCP quickly progressed the use of Near Me in 29 GP practices and has also used it obstetric appointments between Lorn & Islands hospital in Oban and Paisley.

The use of Near Me video consulting is also proving to be vital for those who deliver and receive health and social care during the pandemic. It has enabled services to continue to be provided without potential exposure to Covid-19 and has significantly reduced the number of people coming into health and social care premises.

Local Carers Services Thanked for the Support they Provide to Carers

We would like to thank all of the staff at North Argyll Carer Centre, the Dochas Carers Centres, the Helensburgh & Lomond Carers Centre and Crossroads (Cowan and Bute), Crossroads North Argyll and Mid Argyll Youth Development Service for everything they have been doing to support carers and local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

They deliver a fantastic range of services including providing advice, guidance and support to carers on a daily basis and over the last few months, with the COVID-19 pandemic, have been absolutely outstanding in the service they have continued to provide remotely for carers.

We are so lucky to have such a strong Carers network in Argyll and Bute and to have such committed people who provide real positive carer support for the local communities that they serve.

Jean's Bothy Improving Access to Mental Health and Wellbeing Services

Jean's Bothy is a mental health and wellbeing hub for Helensburgh and surrounding communities and provides services for members of the community who are experiencing mental health challenges. It opened in July 2018 and is a partnership approach between the HSCP and Enable Scotland.

Prior to the pandemic, services would normally be delivered face-to-face for problems and issues like stress, loneliness, relationship breakdown and caring responsibilities. When lockdown started the Bothy quickly looked at new ways of providing services and implemented the use of Zoom and Webex video messaging apps to help the people using the service access activities and resources online.

Routine has been essential to support the people using the service and the expanded use of digital technology has been very successful and has provided them with a great deal of comfort during what is a challenging time for everyone.

Staffside update

The A&B Joint TU Staffside Group continue to meet on a weekly basis. We have now reinstated the Joint Partnership Forum meeting following the stepping down of the pandemic and will also reinstate the Staff Liaison Group meeting from August. The A&B Joint TU Staffside Group continue to encourage staff and managers to participate in the Courageous Conversations training and the feedback so far has been encouraging and members of the group are being encouraged to undertake training to deliver this.