

Integration Joint Board

Agenda item:

Date of Meeting: 31 March 2021

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

Extension of Guardian Service

Earlier this year an independent and confidential Guardian Service was launched for NHS Highland staff, including those working in Argyll and Bute. The Guardian Service was extended from 1 January 2021 to cover Argyll and Bute Council staff working for the HSCP.

The service is independent and confidential and is for staff to discuss matters relating to patient and service user care and safety, whistleblowing, bullying and harassment, and workplace grievances. The guardians are external to the HSCP and more information on the services they provide is available on their website at www.theguardianservice.co.uk

The Guardians have now arranged a series of online sessions from March – May to enable staff to meet them virtually and find out more about the services they offer. This information has been widely distributed to staff.

Mid Argyll Midwifery Team

The Mid Argyll Midwifery Team recently welcomed midwife Lorna Young to their ranks. Lorna's role as an integrated rural midwife means she is part of a team of six midwives covering Mid Argyll and she provides care to local women and their families in the unit and at their home.

Lorna, who is originally from Lochgilphead, completed work experience during her final school years with the Mid Argyll midwives, and joined them again during her student midwife clinical/training placements. Most of her training was completed with Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board where she remained based for four years after she qualified as a midwife.

A Big Thank You to all Vaccinators

The Chief Officer would like to thank all staff, including GPs and their teams, for the amazing work they have been carrying out over the last few months to ensure that COVID-19 vaccinations can be delivered across Argyll and Bute.

The speed at which the vaccine programme has been arranged has been absolutely fantastic and the lengths that staff are going to ensure that everyone who is eligible is offered a vaccine highlights the commitment they have to their local communities.

Mid Argyll Hospital Receives Donation

Mid Argyll Hospital has recently received a kind donation of an ECG monitor which was donated by a local resident who was keen to use some funds they had received to donate the monitor to the hospital.

Cardiology patients under the care of the hospital will benefit from this new technology which allows them to record their heart beats using the monitor and an associated app. The device can be used to help diagnose and monitor symptoms of irregular heartbeat and patients meeting the criteria for home health monitoring can now be monitored in the comfort of their own home.

Drone Delivery Flights in Argyll and Bute

The HSCP has been continuing to work closely with Skyports to carry COVID test samples and other medical materials on drone delivery flights between medical facilities within Argyll and Bute.

The use of delivery drones means that access to hard-to-reach areas can be greatly improved. The time taken to transport materials can also be significantly reduced, in some areas from 36 hours (for a road and ferry journey) to 15 minutes.

The drone delivery service will initially operate between Lorn & Islands Hospital in Oban, Mid-Argyll Community Hospital in Lochgilphead, Easdale Medical Practice in Clachan Seil and the Mull & Iona Community Hospital in Craignure.

Both a scheduled service and an on-demand service will be run, with orders able to be placed by NHS staff through an online system developed by digital consultants Deloitte.

Lorn & Islands Hospital Receives Generous Donations

Lorn & Islands Hospital has received a generous donation of eight televisions, a tablet, electrical kitchen equipment, toiletries and board games, all from a local fundraiser on Mull.

During what has been a challenging time for everyone the staff at the hospital have really appreciated the support they have received from local communities, businesses, volunteers and organisations.