

Progress Report for IJB Members

Primary Care

GP Practices

We continue to work with Health Board estates departments to ensure we have safe systems of working. Signage, floor markings, Perspex shields are being put in place. Isles still to be visited but safe working practices have been put in place with patient access being limited and working to a one in one out system. Risk assessments are being developed around all practice premises.

A recovery planning meeting has been arranged for 25 June where discussions will take place about restarting some patient services. We need to ensure before final decisions are taken that we have sufficient lab capacity, PPE, consumables and safe systems of working.

Primary Care Improvement Plan locally has been restarted. There are both an oversight group and full planning group meetings being timetabled for July with recommendations due to be presented at the next IJB meeting. We have yet to receive national guidance from Scottish Government around any possible extension to this programme of work although Boards are requesting this due to the impact of COVID and the requirement to review previous modelling assumptions.

Assessment Centre

There are option appraisals drafted both for planning assumptions until end of July and then forward to end of March 2021. Currently we are aiming to reduce the scope of the service as workload is low, with the caveat that, should we have a surge in Orkney, we will be able to reopen in a timely manner. We are working closely with secondary care colleagues to ensure that our modelling works across both areas thus ensuring we have the most efficient and safe sharing of resources going forward.

Out Of Hours

We continue to work with our assessment centre colleagues to ensure we have red and green working processes. We continue to progress discussions around unscheduled care working options. We continue to build relationships with Scottish Ambulance Service and meet as part of a huddle on a Friday afternoon with an invite now also being successfully extended to our mental health colleagues.

Dental Practices

Dental Practices are slowly returning to work and work has been undertaken with our local independent contractors. Risk assessments have to be completed prior to reopening. Independent Contractors can resume reviewing patients from July but are not able to provide aerosol generating procedures so in effect this will be check-up processes only

with advice on self-care. Any urgent aerosol generating procedures will still need to be referred into the board's Public Dental Service.

Our Dental Department continues to provide that swabbing service at the current time but the staffing of this service is now being reviewed in light of changes within Dental Services.

We continue to use Garson Dental Service as our emergency centre and currently have 2 clinic rooms being utilised with the ability to open up a third. We are likewise adopting safe systems of working and ensure we have a one in and one system of access.

Optometry

Work is commencing on gradually re-opening in July. There is currently information still coming out from Scottish Government around the requirements for reopening. We are working closely with our Optometry Advisor in NHS Highland and have a meeting with our local Optician on 25 June to discuss risk assessment in advance of reopening. We likewise need to have discussions with Specsavers who provide an island visiting service.

Specialist Nursing

There has been a gradual reintroduction of these services with the emphasis being initially on reviewing their urgent caseload requirements and providing virtual consultations. Our new Heart Failure Specialist nursing role commences from 29 June. This is a development post and induction and training will need to be tailored around the current COVID situation.

Currently options appraisals are being undertaken around community staffing and potential new models of MDT working that will allow us to work more cohesively between red and green areas.

Ohac Clinical Nurse Manager

Angela Colburn Veitch commences in this role from 6 July. Angela will be overseeing all community and specialist nursing services within OHAC and her post will sit under the umbrella of Primary Care.

Custody Healthcare

Regular national weekly meetings have been held. To date there has been no local impact on this service. We have agreed protocols of how suspected COVID cases would be assessed and have likewise agreed that any swabbing requirement would be undertaken as part of a drive through process. NHS Boards have a requirement to ensure Near Me virtual consultations are available from police custody areas and we are currently liaising with colleagues around this.