

Sally Shaw (Chief Officer)

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Agenda Item: 8.

Integration Joint Board

Date of Meeting: 12 May 2020

Subject: Covid-19 Emergency Governance Arrangements

1. Summary

On 9 April 2020, the Board agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Officer for the foreseeable future, to take decisions in respect of matters that would normally require Board approval, subject to consultation taking place with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. This was following discussions across Health and Social Care Partnerships across Scotland. However, after discussions with colleagues in Scottish Government, it has been advised this delegation should not have happened.

2. Purpose

Integration Joint Board members are asked to agree the delegated authority previously granted to the Chief Officer be rescinded.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended:

3.1. That the Board agree the delegated authority previously granted to the Chief Officer on 9 April 2020 be returned to the Board with immediate effect.

3.2. That voting members of the IJB should continue to meet weekly with the Chief Officer, Chief Finance Officer and Interim Chief Social Work Officer during this emergency pandemic period. This will serve as a weekly check in during this fast-moving situation.

3.3. That officers work to ensure all IJB members are able to attend formal meetings by virtual means whilst lock down and then social distancing continues to be enforced.

4. Background

4.1. In light of the ongoing Covid-19 situation investigations have been taking place into the Board's business continuity arrangements, including how decisions that require Board approval can be made if the Board is unable to meet.

4.2. To address this, it was proposed that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer to take any decisions that in normal circumstances would require Board approval. This was subject to consultation taking place with the Chair and Vice-Chair. This decision has also been taken for the majority of IJBs across Scotland.

4.3. However, advice has recently been given by Scottish Government to state that this delegation should not have been put in place. The advice was to rescind this decision at the earliest possible opportunity.

4.4. Also, on making this decision, it was at a time of the early emergency pandemic measures being put in place. Since then the ability to hold large meetings via digital technology has proven very successful. This negates any need to delegate.

5. Contribution to quality

Please indicate which of the Council Plan 2018 to 2023 and 2020 vision/quality ambitions are supported in this report adding Yes or No to the relevant area(s):

Promoting survival: To support our communities.	Yes.
Promoting sustainability: To make sure economic, environmental and social factors are balanced.	Yes.
Promoting equality: To encourage services to provide equal opportunities for everyone.	Yes.
Working together: To overcome issues more effectively through partnership working.	Yes.
Working with communities: To involve community councils, community groups, voluntary groups and individuals in the process.	Yes.
Working to provide better services: To improve the planning and delivery of services.	Yes
Safe: Avoiding injuries to patients from healthcare that is intended to help them.	No.
Effective: Providing services based on scientific knowledge.	Yes.
Efficient: Avoiding waste, including waste of equipment, supplies, ideas, and energy.	Yes.

6. Resource implications and identified source of funding

There are no resource implications arising from return of delegating authority.

7. Risk and Equality assessment

There are no risk and equality implications arising from return of delegating authority.

8. Direction Required

Please indicate if this report requires a direction to be passed to:

NHS Orkney.	No.
Orkney Islands Council.	No.
Both NHS Orkney and Orkney Islands Council.	No

9. Escalation Required

Please indicate if this report requires escalation to:

NHS Orkney.	No.
Orkney Islands Council.	No.
Both NHS Orkney and Orkney Islands Council.	No

10. Author

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11. Contact details

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