



CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 7 October 2025. Minute of Meeting of the CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE. Present:- Mark Burrell Chairperson; and David Blackburn, Councillor Lee Fairfull and Councillor M. Tauqeer Malik.

In attendance: Caroline Howarth, Claire Wilson, Judith McLenan, Lizzy Archibald, Rachael Little, Claire Smith, Michelle Grant, Jess Anderson, Nicola Dale, Nicola McLean, Lucy Simpson, Bukola Oyedele and Mark Masson (Clerk).

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1. The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Jane Gibson, Sandy Reid and Martin Allan.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

2. There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 17 JUNE 2025, FOR APPROVAL

3. The Committee had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 17 June 2025, for approval.

The Committee resolved:-
to approve the minute.

BUSINESS PLANNER

4. The Committee had before it their Business Planner for consideration.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note the reasons for deferral in relation to item 10 (35 Hour Week), item 11 (Improving Transitions) and item 15 (Local update on the Specialist Mental Health

CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

7 October 2025

- and Learning Disability Services (Hosted services) Mental Welfare Commission reports); and
- (ii) to otherwise note the Business Planner.

CCG GROUP MONITORING REPORT - UPDATE - HSCP.25.075

5. The Committee had before it a report by Caroline Howarth and Michelle Grant which presented data and information to provide assurance that operational activities were being delivered and monitored effectively and that patients, staff and the public were being kept safe whilst receiving high quality service from Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP). The full sector reports were appended to the report.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the contents of the report and provide comments and observations on the information contained in the report and in appendices A and B.

Caroline Howarth provided an overview of the report, specifically making reference to the following and also the highlights from the sector reports:-

- the joint meeting between the Clinical and Care Governance Group and Committee;
- staffing pressures;
- pressure ulcers;
- advanced nursing practice; and
- an update on integration of the hosted in-patient mental health services.

During discussion there was a proposal to arrange an in-person meeting of the Committee in 2026, to be held in the Health Village.

Caroline Howarth also made reference to the new format for presenting the data, which was well received by all the members.

Jess Anderson advised that a piece of work was to be undertaken to review the terms of reference for the two Committees of the IJB.

It was noted that work would be undertaken to map out the governance structures which lay below the Clinical and Care Governance Group (CCGG) and that a discussion in this regard will be held at their next meeting.

Michelle Grant advised that there were 2,846 adverse events across Quarter 1 2025-2026, which was a 10% increase from the previous reporting quarter and was in keeping with the general increase in reporting of adverse events. She indicated that when discussed with the CCGG, it was thought that the increase was due to a combination of growing

CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

7 October 2025

confidence in the reporting of events and the increasing complexity of patients and service users seen in the sector.

In response to a question regarding the very high increase of adverse events in community nursing, the Committee were advised that this was mainly due to the number and complexity of patients, noting that the majority of those were negligible.

Claire Wilson provided information regarding the Sex Offender programme, which had been provided by Aberdeenshire on behalf of the City, noting that they were withdrawing the service from the end of March 2026, however contingency plans were in place and a new team would be established to ensure there were no gaps in the service.

The Committee discussed the implications around the reduced hours working week, bed sores and ambulance stacking at ARI, abortion care services and the difficulties to recruit staff in certain roles/areas, noting that there were arrangements in place to prioritise recruitment in front line staff vacancies.

The Committee noted that the Poppy Ward at Rosewell House had now been closed and approval for the phased closure of additional frailty beds was granted at the Integration Joint Board meeting on 1 July 2025.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note that data will be added to future reports in relation to events resulting in harm/no harm; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the report.

LESSONS LEARNED

6. The Committee heard the Chair advise that a good lesson learned was the shared example of “You Said, We did” aspect as follows:-

You Said: “I’m dyslexic and struggle with everything expected to be done on mobile phone and laptops (i.e. apps for council parking etc). Are classes held at the vaccine hub or elsewhere to help how to do things online?”

We did: Silver City Surfers now holding classes every Wednesday from 2pm -4pm to provide one to one support with building confidence online.

The Committee resolved:-

to concur with the Chairperson and include details on the website.

CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

7 October 2025

DISCHARGE WITHOUT DELAY REPORT - HSCP.25.076

7. With reference to article 7 of the minute of the previous meeting of 17 June 2025, the Committee had before it a joint report by Nicola McLean, Service Manager, Hospital Social Work/Adult Protection Social Work, which provided an update on improvement activity within the General ACHSCP services as well as Specialist Mental Health and Learning Disability services in relation to the national strategic oversight of 'Discharge without Delay' (DwD).

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) consider the latest data regarding the rate of delayed discharges across general ACHSCP services and Specialist MHL D services;
- (b) agree that this report provides assurance to the Committee regarding the progress made against the improvement plans to lower the number of delayed discharges;
- (c) agree that there is sufficient assurance provided to the Committee regarding progress that there is no longer the reason to provide monthly updates. The DwD work is now Business as Usual; and
- (d) are satisfied that assurance will be provided through The Clinical and Care Governance Group.

Nicola McLean and Claire Smith provided an overview of the report.

Nicola advised that as of today's date, the delayed discharge figure at Royal Cornhill Hospital and other City partnership facilities was 49, which was above the benchmark figure of 45 set by the Scottish Government in May 2024.

In a response to a question, Claire advised that a cross systems strategic service delivery team for mental health and learning disabilities had been established to monitor the delayed discharge situation and length of stay.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

ABERDEEN CITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - OPERATIONAL RISKS - HSCP.25.077

8. The Committee had before it a report by Martin Allan, Business, Resilience and Communications Lead which outlined the governance arrangements around the reporting of operational clinical risks through the Clinical Care and Governance Committee and Clinical Care and Governance Group and the links to the Board Assurance and Escalation Framework.

The report recommended:-

CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

7 October 2025

that the Committee –

- (a) note the governance arrangements around the reporting of operational clinical risks in Aberdeen City Integration Joint Board as detailed in the report;
- (b) comment on the full Operational Risk Register (comprising clinical risks) as attached at the Appendix to this report; and
- (c) agree to receive the full Operational Risk Register on an annual basis.

During discussion, the Committee discussed whether the correct mitigations were in place, the monitoring process and escalation route for those which were sitting at 'very high'.

In relation to the podiatry waiting times, Lizzie Archibald advised that the risk should reduce due to new staff being in post and the possible introduction of apprenticeship models.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

ADULT SUPPORT AND PROTECTION - DATA RETURN 2023 - 2025 - HSCP.25.078

9. The Committee had before it a report by Lucy Simpson, Lead Strategic Officer, Adult Public Protection which (1) provided an update on Adult Support and Protection (ASP) data for 2023–25, following implementation of the Scottish Government's new quarterly dataset; (2) appraised members of implications and trends; and (3) provided an overview of two years of comparative data.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee -

- (a) note the updated ASP performance data for 2023–25; and
- (b) acknowledge improvements in data quality, analysis, and consistency since the introduction of the quarterly dataset.

The Committee heard from Lucy Simpson who highlighted the key information from the report as follows:-

- that there was a significant increase in referrals (24%) compared to the previous year which is likely due to increased awareness and also wider social and economic pressures;
- that the most frequent referral sources remained care homes, care at home providers and Police Scotland, acknowledging that there was a notable increase in referrals from health services;
- that the proportion of referrals progressing to full investigation had reduced which indicated effective early intervention and triage by the Adult Support and Protection Social Work Team; and

CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

7 October 2025

- that there had been a rise in both initial and review case conferences reflecting increased complexity and risk as well as improvements in practice.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations contained within the report.

REVIEW OF SOCIAL WORK GOVERNANCE AND ASSURANCE ACROSS SCOTLAND - HSCP.25.079

10. The Committee had before it a report by Claire Wilson, Chief Officer, Adult Social Work which presented the findings of the Care Inspectorate's 2025 national review of social work governance and assurance across Scotland, and sought consideration of the implications for local governance, assurance, and workforce sustainability within Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP).

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) note the findings of the national review and its relevance to local governance arrangements;
- (b) endorse the development of a local action plan of social work governance, assurance, and workforce support; and
- (c) endorse the development of a Professional Governance Framework for Social Work which identifies and further clarifies the governance and assurance arrangements for social care within Aberdeen City.

The Committee heard from Claire Wilson who provided an overview of the report advising (1) that overall, the recommendations within the review indicated that there was good governance structures albeit there was some duplication of reporting; (2) that only half the Health and Social Care Partnerships had Social Work Leaders (including Aberdeen) and they saw that as a strength; and (3) that an area to strengthen was to prepare an evidence based social work governance framework.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to acknowledge and thank Claire Wilson and her Adult Social Work Team for their diligent work, particularly noting that there was a 10% increase on the scoring over the national average; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendations contained within the report.

ITEMS WHERE ESCALATION TO IJB IS REQUIRED

11. The Committee considered whether any items required escalation to the IJB.

CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

7 October 2025

The Committee resolved:-

that no items be escalated to the UB at this time.

- **MARK BURRELL, Chairperson**