

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD (IJB) – 28 AUGUST 2019

PLANNING FOR WINTER 2019/20

1 Recommendation

It is recommended that the IJB:-

1.1 Acknowledge the increased pressure upon services during winter;

1.2 Endorse the overall approach adopted by the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in planning for winter and preparing to manage seasonal pressures; and

1.3 Agree to receive a further report on the HSCP's response to seasonal challenges in six months.

2 Risk

2.1 This report relates to IJB Risk 1, 2 and 8.
IJB 1 – Sufficiency of resources
IJB 2 – Health and social care policy
IJB 8 – Working with partner organisations

2.2 IJB 1 - The winter plan sets out the most effective use of Aberdeenshire resources within the larger Grampian health and social care system and seeks to create a coordinated and efficient approach to winter surges in demand.

2.3 IJB 2 - Each NHS Board and health and social care partnership is required to produce an annual winter plan. Without an Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership winter plan there would be a lack of adherence with national direction.

2.4 IJB 8 - Without a comprehensive winter plan which reflects Aberdeenshire's position within a larger health and social care system there is a risk that sectors will not fully align resources in the best interests of patients and service users.

3 Background

3.1 Preparedness for winter is essential to ensure we maximise the health and social care arrangements for our Aberdeenshire population. As in previous years, we have been part of a cohesive approach to planning for winter



through working with all relevant stakeholders, including the acute sector of NHS Grampian and our adjoining HSCPs (Aberdeen City and Moray).

- 3.5 The Aberdeenshire winter plan reflects the whole of our health and social care system and the contribution that all professions have on the 'flow' of the system.
- 3.6 The winter plan augments the existing AHSCP Business Continuity Plan, which will be initiated to ensure services are maintained in the event of a surge in seasonal pressures. For example, a large scale loss of staff due to adverse weather conditions or pandemic influenza.
- 3.7 Winter planning has been added to the AHSCP Risk Register to ensure risks associated with seasonal pressures are monitored regularly and managed effectively.

4 Key Areas of Action

- 4.1 The Winter Plan is based on the existing processes and ways of working which are in operation across the local health and care system throughout the year.

The plan is focussed around the following areas:

- Daily Communication and Escalation Processes – participation at the Daily Cross System Huddle; continued collaborative working between the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (ARI) Hub and community teams.
- Risk Management – whole system risk-based decision making; participation in tabletop exercises; arrangements for escalating status to a “significant incident”; arrangements for providing Daily Situation Reports.
- Performance Information and Anticipating Demand – arrangements for gathering capacity and demand information; understanding patterns of demand across Aberdeenshire inpatient facilities.
- Unscheduled Care Demand and Capacity – prepare for the demands of winter with enough staff to deliver safe and effective care across community and hospital/residential settings.
- Plans for Pre, Post and During the Christmas Period – sufficient staff in place throughout festive period; appropriate admission and discharge arrangements throughout festive period.



- Adverse Weather – all staff have access to weather warnings to ensure safe travel arrangements; targeting available resources at those in most need and at greatest risk.
- Vaccination and Self-Care – encouraging increased uptake of influenza vaccinations; increasing use of digital tools to increase self-management.
- Stakeholder Communication – staff are fully informed of the Aberdeenshire H&SCP Winter Action Plan; briefing Elected Members, area committees, community councils and third sector to create greater awareness of getting ready for winter, including links to NHS Grampian 'Know Who To Turn To' information.

- 4.2 Additional action planned for this year includes closer working between the Discharge Hub at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and community-based care managers to enhance the discharge and transfer arrangements of patients from hospital.
- 4.3 For the second year, Infrastructure Services colleagues will continue to increase community resilience through the Snow Warden Scheme. This will support local groups to clear snow and spread grit at an early stage to minimise the worst effects and reduce the hazard. This involves the provision of training, equipment, and protective clothing to groups of residents.
- 4.4 In the event of severe weather conditions, there will be joint working with roads and infrastructure departments to enable staff to access vulnerable people at home and ensure they can get to work in hospitals, care homes, clinics, and other key facilities.
- 4.5 Front-line health and social care staff and infrastructure services staff involved with the winter gritting programme will be encouraged to access the flu vaccination. This will help maintain staffing levels throughout the winter period to ensure service continuity across both health & social care and infrastructure services.

4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct staffing or financial implications contained within this report. However, services delivered through Delayed Discharge and Virtual Community Ward funding are referred to within the Aberdeenshire Winter Plan.
- 4.2 An equality impact assessment is not required as the report has no differential impact on people with protected characteristics.



Aberdeenshire
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Partnership

- 4.3 The Chief Officer, along with the Chief Finance Officer and the Legal Monitoring Officer within Business Services of the Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments have been incorporated within the report.

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