

CAITHNESS DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

ACTION NOTE FROM MEETING OF: 26 June 2015 in Pentland Hotel, Thurso

PRESENT: Cllr Bill Fernie (BS) - Chair, , Cllr Willie Mackay (WM), Niall Smith (NS) CVG , Bob Silverwood (BS) NHS, Dawn Grant (DG) THC, Mike Flavell (MF) NSH, Dr Borja Echavarren (BE) NHS , Cllr Roger Saxon (RS), John Glen (JG) THC, Nigel Brett Young (NBY) HLH, Pat Groves (PG) THC, Naomi Watson (NW) THC

APOLOGIES: Cllr David Alston, Cllr Linda Munro, Steven Gorman, Pat Ramsay, Shirley Park, Marie McIlwraith, Keith Moncur, John West and Joanna MacDonald

IN ATTENDANCE: Will Clark, NOS Newspapers, Alex MacManus (AM), Deputy Ward Manager, Alison McDiarmid (Notes) and one member of the public

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION AGREED	LEAD	NAMED OFFICER	TIMESCALE
	Chair	Welcomed everyone to the meeting.			
	Previous Action Note - 27 March 2015	BF updated that the Role and Remit of the Partnership had been discussed. Some changes may happen but will keep the Partnership posted.	BF		
1	Children's Services - Care and Learning Management Structure	<p>DG wanted to take the opportunity to share and explain the new Management Structure as not now called Social Care but along with Education comes under the one banner of Care and Learning. There is now one Area Manager, Maurice McIntyre, who covers for the North and Mid Areas. DG went on to explain the structure. The Partnership may wish to invite other managers to the meeting as and when required. Copies of the North Area Organisation Chart were available for anyone who would like a copy. Email to AM for further distribution.</p> <p>At the Council meeting held on 25 June, Councillors Fiona Robertson and Biz Campbell were elected as Vice-chairs for Education, Children & Adult Services. They will also share the Children's Champion role.</p>	DG		

2	Children Services - Childcare and Family Resource Partnership Funding	<p>DG gave a brief background on the Child Care Partnership Funding, main points being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was set up around 11 years ago by the Scottish Government to provide Wrap Around Child Care for all families - To assist with funding to local groups in the Caithness Area Last year provided sustainability funding for Pre-School, After School and wrap around care, Young Mother's Groups, holiday clubs with underlying specification for disability. - Funding given to Women's Aid for children's funding which was matched by the Scottish Government. - Provided training for the services staff - child protection - risk assessment, first aid, moving and handling, food hygiene, administration of medicines, English as an additional language. - Meeting held recently re mapping of child care services that we have in area. Also to identify what the gaps are, one of which, is the need for a young or lone fathers group. - What will the impact of the 600 hrs child care provision have on the providers. - Will take the mapping back to the Partnership to prioritise if there are any gaps - Funding given to North includes Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross. <p>Queried as to whether the Caithness Childcare and Family Resource Partnership is more than a "talking shop". Confirmed by NS that it was and that all the partner's work together very effectively. Noted that the 3rd Sector are the biggest partners and they are needed to keep the services running and their input/support is crucial.</p>			
	Questions from Members of the Public - Children Services	No questions arose			
3/4	Adult Services – Redesign update and staffing at Caithness	<p>BS advised that as the 2 topics were interlinked he would update simultaneously with the main points being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work continues to develop a sustainable staffing model for Caithness General Hospital (CGH) - Weekend Consultant cover being provided by rotational surgeons and physicians from Raigmore. Weekday cover by substantive surgeon and long 	BS		

General Hospital Update Feedback		<p>term locum physician supplement by short term locum cover. Weekday out of hours cover was being provided by locums and for 2 nights a week, until recently, by the North & West Operational Unit Clinical Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nearing the initial deadline to the interim arrangements with Raigmore but following the initial trial, confident there will be continued support during the summer months - The arrangements put in place to support the junior doctors has proven to be successful, with training requirements met - Have recruited 2 Emergency Physicians who are commencing in October - Interviews being held for the rotational surgical posts, confident of appointing - Finalising arrangements for a long term locum Anaesthetist - The above entails a significant deficit to the budget but will enable us to build on the successful work to date. - Ongoing advertising/recruitment for nursing staff - Formal consultation meeting took place on 17 June, which involved members of public, clinical staff and managers. Of the 80 invitations sent out only 25-30 actually attended which was disappointing. - An additional option was generated on the day, to go for District General Hospital status, which was the second highest scoring option. The highest being an Enhanced Emergency Department and rotational surgical support. - Acute Assessment Unit has been in place since February. Patients with either acute surgical or medical needs are admitted to the Rosebank Ward for assessment and initial interventions within a 72 hour period. Patients then moved to Bignold Ward for ongoing care and rehabilitation - A significant improvement in patient flow through the hospital has been seen. This has enabled work to commence to reduce the amount of 6 bedded wards to fulfil HAI compliance. This will leave 74 beds in total. - Virtual ward approach beginning shortly - specialist consultant led interventions with known high risk patients in the community with the aim to avoid repeated in-patient treatments - Adverts have been placed for Advanced Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants 			
Questions from Members of the Public -		<p>Q 1 - <i>“Dr Davidson “until recently” had been doing 2 nights?”</i> A - BS responded that Dr Davidson had practically given up 3 months of his life to help out. As already stated he is the Clinical Director for the North & West Operational Unit which in itself is a highly demanding role along with his GP</p>			

	Adult Services	<p>commitments in Skye. He will be continuing to do day work and to assist with the Junior Doctors training.</p> <p>Q 2 - <i>“If the 6 bedded wards are to be reduced, will there be sufficient beds available for the winter illness time?”</i></p> <p>A - BS responded that there should be as the virtual ward should assist, staffing will not be reduced and as always looking at ways which procedures etc can be carried out in a slicker manner but not to compromise patient care. Also reiterated that it is not a money saving exercise but to finally come in line with HAI compliance which has been an ongoing issue for several years.</p> <p>Q 3 - <i>“Hearing in the local community that the Carers are doing a very good job but they are in/out within 15 minutes. “Are there enough bodies on the ground to meet the service needs?”</i></p> <p>A - BS responded that there are a lot of myths about the 15 minutes visits - they are usually the visits that are checking/giving medication. If a person needs a half hour visit, that should be part of their care plan. If their care plan needs updating then that information is passed on for reviewing by the relevant manager.</p>			
5.	Joint Services - Dental Services Update	<p>BS advised that a paper had been presented to the NHS Highland Board recently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There are 2 ways of delivering the service, General Dental Practitioner (GDP) and Public Dental Service (PDS) – NHS Highland’s PDS has a significantly greater number of registrations than other Health Boards in Scotland – NHS Highland, NHS Orkney and NHS Western Isles all exceed the NHS national spend split. The common factor is that they all have a shared history of low participation from GDP contractors. The proposal is to rebalance this. – Emphasis to be on the planning to take place at local level. The Head of Dental Service will come to the Caithness District Partnership meeting to discuss/take forward. 			
6	Adult Services - SAS including Fall Pathway Update	<p>In Steven Gorman’s absence MF updated the Partnership, the main points being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Only 2 falls have resulted in a British Red Cross (BRC) Responder being called out – 2 cases where the patients were taken to hospital but could have stayed at home – Number of calls where the Community Team have been asked to follow up with a multifactorial falls risk assessment, some with a Pharmacy follow up. Most referrals for Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy or Medications Review. 			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only 2 SAS calls to fallers in May which is good news - Falls in general down compared to this time last year - Funding for BRC Responders runs out in October 2015 - talks taking place on how best to take forward, also noted that this funding is tied in to the Telecare Project. <p>Queried as to whether the 9 week waiting list for Physiotherapy had improved? MF advised that there was a staffing issue in Dunbar Hospital, 1 vacant post and 2 staff members off sick. Vacant post has been recruited to, commencing in July. One staff member back from sick leave and a locum is being sought. Aim for the waiting list is to be 6 weeks but that has now crept up beyond the previous 9 weeks.</p>			
	Questions from Members of the Public - Adult Services	<p>Q 1 - <i>"Can the public still self-refer to Physiotherapy?"</i></p> <p>A - MF responded to advise that some self-referrals are still ongoing but for Musculoskeletal problems only, patients get a phone number from their GP, triaged by NHS 24 who will send out self-management material and/or sign post to other services. Stroke pathway etc you can still self-refer also your GP can still refer.</p>			
7	Any Other Current Business	Partnership agreed that priority should be given to promoting the area, as recently it would appear that the "down side" is being reported in the press and not any of its positives. This may have a detrimental effect to recruitment of staff and also tourism.			
8	Next Meeting	Friday 30 October 2015 in Town Hall, Wick			