

# Core brief

Tuesday 19 February 2019

## Introduction

The issue of Core Brief details information on today's (Tuesday 19 February) Board meeting.

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### **New Quality Strategy**

At today's Board meeting, a new strategy was approved in principle, detailing how we will take forward healthcare quality over the next five years.

'The Pursuit of Healthcare Excellence' sets out three key areas of quality care - effective, person-centred and safe – giving examples of what NHSGGC does well at the moment and areas where this can be strengthened.

Nurse Director Dr Margaret Mcguire said: "Our patients are at the centre of everything we do. Many of our patients already tell us the care they receive is compassionate and our staff are kind, competent and professional.

"But we know that there is always room for improvement and this new strategy sets out our priorities for action over the next five years to embed quality – not as another task – but as a normal way of working for everyone."

[Click here to read the full Board paper.](#)

### **Public Health Screening Annual Report**

Also published today was the Board's Public Health Screening Programme Annual Report for 2017-2018.

The Board heard about the very important role that screening plays in detecting early disease or risk factors among people who have not yet developed symptoms. The full report includes analysis of these different screening programmes and uptake amongst different groups and this intelligence is used to enable targeted local delivery.

[Click here to read the full Board paper.](#)

### **Update on Healthcare Associated Infections**

Medical Director Dr Jennifer Armstrong updated the Board on a number of recent incidents of healthcare acquired infections.

The investigation into two isolated cases of Cryptococcus continues. Despite exhaustive tests of the hospital environment, there have been no traces found of the specific Cryptococcus strain that affected two patients and there have been no further cases.

An Expert Advisory Group has been set up to report to the Incident Management Team to help establish

whether a definitive source of the Cryptococcus can be found, although it was noted that an American study has reported that the organism can lie dormant in a healthy human and only become harmful when a person becomes extremely unwell with suppressed immunity.

Dr Armstrong also gave an update on three cases of Staphylococcus aureus (S.aureus) infection in the Princes Royal Maternity Hospital (PRMH). She advised that this is an extremely rare strain which is resistant to the two antibiotics normally prescribed for S.aureus and is also resistant to the skin cleaning agent routinely used in hospitals across the UK.

This is the first time this strain of bacteria has been identified in Scotland. Whilst there have been no further cases of infection, four babies have tested positive for S. aureus on their skin. Enhanced infection control measures continue, including screening of babies in the PRMH, RAH and RHC, changes to the antibiotic treatment and hand cleaning agent and staff screening at the PRMH neonatal unit.

Dr Armstrong advised of the continued rigorous management of infection within our hospitals and the Board were reassured by her comments and her update.

[Click here to read the full Board paper.](#)

### **Reviews into Queen Elizabeth University Hospital**

We have a culture of continuous improvement and learning and as part of this we routinely review our practices and procedures to ensure that we continue to provide the highest standards of care to our patients.

The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital has been open for four years and in that time a number of issues have been identified with the facility.

Whilst these issues were immediately addressed, it is right that we now look to see what lessons can be learned so that we can further improve the quality of care we provide.

The Board have therefore agreed today to a co-ordinated approach to provide assurance about the hospital and address the public concerns that have been raised in recent weeks. Three reviews are being commissioned to examine our facilities, patient demand and clinical outcomes.

Our own teams will be supported in these reviews by national experts.

Our reviews will also link with the external review commissioned by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

The reviews will report back in due course to the appropriate governance committees and staff will be kept informed.

[Click here to read the full Board paper.](#)

### **Staff Governance Committee Annual Report**

Each year the Staff Governance Committee produces an Annual Report, outlining the key areas of its activity. The 2017-2018 report was approved today and highlighted activities, achievements and challenges and sets out priorities for 2018-19.

Key highlights included NHSGGC being awarded Level 2 Disability Confident status and publishing Guidelines for Managers to support them in making adjustments for staff with a disability. The committee also reported that a Succession Planning and Career Development Framework is now available for all staff, to support managers and staff on their career pathways.

[Click here to read the full Board paper.](#)

[Click here to view the full set of Board papers.](#)