

Core brief

Tuesday 10 December 2019

Introduction

This issue of Core Brief details a parliamentary statement on the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital update and our response from the Chairman.

Parliamentary statement: Queen Elizabeth University Hospital update

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Jeane Freeman, has today given a further update to Parliament on the escalation arrangements within NHSGGC for infection prevention and control and engagement and information with patients and families.

The details of these arrangements are set out in the following Scottish Government press release which also provides a link to the full parliamentary statement.

Also provided below is the response on behalf of the Board from our Chairman Professor John Brown CBE.

We are fully committed to providing support to all staff during this time and ensuring colleagues are kept up to date on the work of the Oversight Board and the areas for improvement that are identified.

If you have any questions, please email: DirectorOf.Communications@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Scottish Government Press Release

Further steps taken to increase public confidence.

Infection prevention and control measures will be strengthened further at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow, the Health Secretary has confirmed.

Speaking in Parliament, Health Secretary Jeane Freeman announced the appointment of Professor Marion Bain to take over infection prevention and control at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Professor Bain, Co-Director of the Delivery Group for Public Health Reform and former Medical Director of NHS National Services Scotland, will lead on improving systems, processes and governance.

An expert assessment of infection prevention and control in the clinical environment will also be carried out.

The findings of the independent assessment will be reported directly to the Scottish Government Oversight Board established following NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde being raised to Stage 4 of the NHS Board Performance Escalation Framework in relation to infection prevention and control and communication and engagement with patients and families.

Ms Freeman said:

“It is critical that the families affected by the cases in Glasgow have their voices heard and their questions fully answered, and I absolutely understand the need for urgency and pace in doing so.

“It is also essential that we have assurances based on evidence that the systems and processes in place are robust, which is why I am bringing in independent expertise who will report their findings directly to the Oversight Board.

“Confidence needs to be restored as quickly as possible for the benefit of patients and families, for the staff, and for all of us who, rightly, have high expectations of our NHS. That confidence will only be won by addressing the issues fully and being open and transparent in all we do”

The Health Secretary [updated Parliament](#) on 10 December 2019.

Professor John Brown, Chairman of NHSGGC, said:

“On behalf of the Board, I offer condolences to the families who have lost a child. We are very sorry that in these tragic circumstances our failure to fully respond to their concerns has added to their distress.

“I also want to apologise to all the families receiving care or being monitored by our clinicians in the paediatric haemato-oncology service for the anxiety caused by the move from the Royal Hospital for Children to Ward 6A in the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

“We fully accept that we must improve the flow of information and our engagement with parents and ensure families are fully supported when a patient suffers an infection.

“At a time when parents most require to have faith and trust in the NHS, we have lost the confidence of families and we deeply regret that.

“We are fully committed to do all we can to re-build that confidence.

“We will do this by working with the Oversight Board to introduce the new arrangements described in the Cabinet Secretary’s statement to the Parliament today.

“This will help us address the issues affecting the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Children in a more open and transparent manner.”

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