

NHS Shetland

Meeting:	Shetland NHS Board
Meeting date:	25 April 2023
Title:	Clinical Governance Committee- Terms of Reference
Agenda reference:	Board Paper 2023/23/12
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:	Kirsty Brightwell, Medical Director
Report Author:	Carolyn Hand, Corporate Services Manager

1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board/Committee for:

- Decision

This report relates to:

- Local policy

This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe
- Effective
- Person-centred

2. Report summary

2.1. Situation

The Board is asked to approve a minor change to the Terms of Reference of the Clinical Governance Committee, whereby there is no longer a requirement for the Chair of the Committee to be a member of the IJB.

2.2. Background

Standing orders determine that the establishment and terms of reference of all its committees is a matter reserved for the Board.

Clinical Governance Committee Terms of Reference require a minor tweak and thus the Board is asked to approve the change.

2.3. Assessment

2.3.1. Quality / patient care

The Clinical Governance Committee seeks to ensure that clinical governance mechanisms are in place that continuously work towards the quality improvement agenda for all patients.

2.3.2. Route to the meeting

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

Clinical Governance Committee – 6 March 2023

2.4. Recommendation

- **Decision** – approval of the minor change.

3. List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

Clinical Governance Committee - Terms of Reference

Clinical Governance Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of the Committee

- 1.1 The Clinical Governance Committee is a standing committee of the Board, which together with the Audit Committee, Staff Governance Committee and Finance and Performance Committee forms the full governance framework for NHS Boards.
- 1.2 The Clinical Governance Committee is established by the Board to provide assurance to the Board that appropriately robust clinical governance processes are in place and effective throughout the organisation.

2. Composition of the Committee

2.1 Membership

- 2.1.1 The Clinical Governance Committee members will be appointed by the Board. As a minimum, full membership of the committee should include five Non-Executive Board members, one of whom must be the Chair of the Audit Committee and one of whom must be the Area Clinical Forum Chair. Of the Non-Executive Members of Clinical Governance Committee, one must also be a member of the Integration Joint Board.
- 2.1.2 The Chair will be appointed by the Board. The appointment of the Chair will be reviewed biennially in line with current legislation.
- 2.1.3 Current membership comprises:
 - Non-Executive Director as Chair
 - Non-Executive Director, Chair of Audit Committee
 - Non-Executive Director, Whistle Blowing Champion
 - One other Non-Executive Directors
 - Chair, Area Clinical Forum
 - Chair, Area Partnership Forum

2.2 Executive Lead

Date of last review: August 2022

Date of next review: September 2023

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Approved by: Board April 2023

- 2.2.1 The lead officer for the Clinical Governance Committee shall be the Medical Director. Generally the designated Executive Lead will support the Chair of the Committee in ensuring that the Committee operates according to / in fulfilment of its agreed Terms of Reference. Specifically they will:
- Support the Chair in ensuring that the Committee Remit is based on the latest guidance and relevant legislation, and the Board's Best Value framework;
 - Liaise with the Chair/Corporate Services Manager in agreeing a programme of meetings for the business year, as required by its remit;
 - Oversee the development of an Annual Work plan for the Committee which is congruent with its remit and the need to provide appropriate assurance at the year end, for endorsement by the Committee and approval by the Board;
 - Agree with the Chair an agenda for each meeting, having regard to the Committee's Remit and Work plan;
 - Lead a midyear review of the Committee Terms of Reference and progress against the Annual Work plan, as part of the process to ensure that the Work plan is fulfilled;
 - Oversee the production of a Committee Annual Report, informed by self-assessment of performance on the delivery of the Committee's Remit, Work plan and key performance indicators for endorsement by the Committee and submission to the Board.

2.3 Attendees

2.3.1 Attendees may be invited to the Clinical Governance Committee as required but regular attendance of the following is expected:

Core attendees (expected at every meeting):

- Medical Director (Joint Executive Lead)
- Director of Nursing and Acute Services (Joint Executive Lead)
- Director of Public Health
- Director Finance
- Chief Officer, Integration Joint Board
- Chief Executive
- Clinical Governance Manager
- Chief Nurse (Corporate)

Ad hoc attendees (required to contribute to key items on the CGC agenda)

- Director of Pharmacy
- Director of Dental Services
- Associate Medical Director for Acute Services
- Associate Medical Director for Primary Care
- Chief Midwife
- Chief Nurse Acute
- Chief Nurse Community
- Head of Primary Care Manager
- Health and Safety Manager
- Head of Information and Digital Technology

Date of last review: August 2022

Date of next review: September 2023

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2.3.2 Where an officer is unable to attend a particular meeting, a named representative shall attend in their place.

3. Functions

3.1 Remit

- Provide assurance to the Board on Clinical Governance in NHS Shetland, with the following focus:

3.1.1 Person-Centred – to provide assurance regarding participation, patient and service users' rights and feedback:

- To provide assurance that there are effective systems and processes in place across NHS Shetland to support participation with patients, service users, carers and communications, to comply with participation standards and the Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011 generally and specifically within the context of service redesign.
- To monitor complaints response performance on behalf of the Board of NHS Shetland, and promote positive complaints handling including learning from feedback and complaints.

3.1.2 Safe (Clinical Governance and Risk Management) – to provide assurance in respect of clinical governance and risk management arrangements by seeking assurance that there are adequate systems and processes in place to ensure that:

- Robust clinical control frameworks are in place for the effective management of clinical governance and risk management and that they are working effectively across the whole of NHS Shetland.
- Performance is reviewed in the management of clinical and professional risks, including emergency planning and service/business continuity planning.
- Effective public protection arrangements are in place.
- Incident management and reporting is in place and lessons are learned from adverse events and near misses.
- Complaints and Duty of Candour events are handled in accordance with national guidance and organisational procedures and lessons are learned from their investigation.
- A culture of continuous improvement in service quality is in place, within the context of the annual efficiency programme.
- Whistleblowing concerns are handled in accordance with the national Whistleblowing Standards and that lessons are learned from their investigations.
- Recommendations are made to the Shetland NHS Board Audit Committee on requirements for internal audit activity.

3.1.3 Effective (Clinical Performance and Public Health Performance and Evaluation) – to provide assurance that clinical effectiveness and quality improvement arrangements are in place:

Date of last review: August 2022

Date of next review: September 2023

Lead Executive Manager: Kirsty Brightwell

Approved by: Board April 2023

- To ensure that recommendations from any inspections have appropriate action plans developed and are monitored and reported on.
- Where performance improvement is necessary, to seek assurance regarding the reliability of the improvement intervention.
- To ensure that clinical dashboards and other data and measurement systems underpin the delivery of care.
- To ensure that the healthcare provided is informed by evidence based clinical and professional practice guidelines.
- To ensure that staff governance issues which impact on service delivery and quality of services are appropriately managed through clinical governance mechanisms and effective training and development is in place for all staff.

3.1.4 Population Health – to provide assurance that all necessary systems and processes are in place that ensure staff engaging in population health related activities incorporate the key components of population health governance, namely:

- Quality and clinical/professional effectiveness
- Public information and involvement
- Population health research
- Risk management
- Realistic care and medicine
- Well informed e.g. health literacy and digital literacy

3.2 Standing Items

- Clinical Effectiveness Quarterly Report from Joint Governance Group (JGG)
- Quality Score Card
- Adverse Event Report
- Joint Governance Group Agenda and Key Actions
- Development Session Presentation
- NHS Complaints and Feedback Monitoring Report
- Internal Audit Action Plans
- External Reviews and Action Plans

3.3 Ad-hoc Reports

Jan/Feb

- Self-assessment for Annual Report
- Examples of Service Redesign Work Programmes
- CGC Business Plan

May

- Draft Annual Feedback and Complaints Report
- Draft Duty of Candour Report
- Hospital Transmission Committee Annual Report
- Review CGC Terms of Reference

Date of last review: August 2022

Date of next review: September 2023

Lead Executive Manager: Kirsty Brightwell

Approved by: Board April 2023

Aug/Sept

- Medical Director's Annual Report to include DME and Realistic Medicine
- Child Death Reviews
- Director of Pharmacy Annual Report

Nov

- Shetland Public Protection Annual Report
- CGC Annual Report

4. Meetings of the Committee

4.1 Frequency

4.1.1 The Committee shall meet 4 times per year.

4.1.2 The Chair of the Committee may at any time convene additional meetings of the Committee to consider business which may require urgent consideration.

4.2 Agenda and Papers

4.2.1 The Chair will set the agenda in conjunction with the Executive Leads.

4.2.2 The agenda and supporting papers will be sent out at least five working days in advance of the meetings. Notice of each meeting will confirm the venue, time and date together with an agenda and shall be made available to each member of the committee.

4.2.3 All papers will clearly state the agenda reference, the author, the purpose of the paper and the action the Committee is asked to consider.

4.3 Quorum

4.3.1 No business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Clinical Governance Committee unless at least four of the whole number of Members is present. For the purposes of determining whether a meeting is quorate, Members attending by either video or teleconference link will be determined to be in attendance.

4.4 Minutes

4.4.1 Formal minutes shall be taken of the proceedings of the Committee. Draft Minutes shall be distributed for consideration and review to the Chair of the Meeting within 10 working days of the meeting except in exceptional circumstances. The Chair must return any edits within a further five working days of receipt.

4.4.2 The draft Minutes will be circulated electronically to Committee Members for approval within the following 10 working days.

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Date of next review: September 2023

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Approved by: Board April 2023

4.4.3 Minutes will be included for noting in subsequent Board Meeting papers following approval by the Clinical Governance Committee.

4.4.4 The Committee Chair will provide a short decision note to all Board members following the meeting, and will escalate any pertinent issues to the next Board meeting regardless of the availability of the approved minutes. Escalation issues might include the committee's inability to provide assurance about an area of delegated responsibility, or flag attendance concerns.

5. Authority

5.1 The Committee is authorised by the Board, within its Terms of Reference, to investigate any activity undertaken by NHS Shetland. It is authorised to seek and obtain any information it requires from any employee and all employees of NHS Shetland are directed to co-operate with any request made by the Committee.

5.2 The Committee is authorised by the Board to obtain external legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the assistance of people from outside NHS Shetland or the wider NHS, with relevant expertise, if it is considered necessary.

5.3 The External and Internal Auditors shall have the right of direct access to the Chair of the Committee for audit purposes.

6. Reporting Arrangements

6.1 The Clinical Governance Committee reports to Shetland NHS Board for non-delegated matters.

6.2 The Committee has a duty to review its own performance and effectiveness, including:

- A midyear review of Terms of Reference, considering the need for any amendment/update to Terms of Reference, which in the event, will require to be approved by the Board;
- A midyear review of the Committee's established key performance indicators;
- A midyear review of Annual Work plan, identifying any areas of slippage on timescales / tasks and put in place any additional actions to ensure full delivery of the Committee's Remit and Work plan by the business year end;
- In accordance with Best Value for Board and Committee Working, the submission of an Annual Report by 5 April each year encompassing: the name of the Committee, the Committee Chair, members, the Executive Lead and officer supports/attendees, frequency and dates of meetings, member attendance, the activities of the Committee during the year including confirmation of delivery of the Annual Work plan and review of the Committee Terms of Reference and key performance indicators, improvements overseen by the Committee and matters of concern to the Committee (in line with the Annual Report template).

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