

NHS Shetland

Meeting:	NHS Shetland Board
Meeting date:	25 April 2023
Agenda reference:	Board Paper 2023/24/14
Title:	National Assault Pledge
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:	Michael Dickson, Chief Executive
Report Author:	Carolyn Hand, Corporate Services Manager

1 Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Ratification

This report relates to an:

- Emerging issue

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

- Safe
- Effective
- Person Centred

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

The Board is asked to:

- **Ratify** the Board's commitment to sign up to the National Assault pledge: Violence and Aggression towards NHS staff, as agreed virtually.

2.2 Background

Violence and Aggression towards NHS staff is unfortunately increasing. Agreement has been sought from all Health Boards to adopt a campaign and assault pledge that has been developed in a multi-agency partnership, led by Police Scotland, and to embed this locally.

Over 18,000 assaults on NHS staff were reported in the last year according to FOI data. A recent BMA survey also showed 76% of respondents had been subjected to at least one incident of racist behaviour in the past two years.

NHS Scotland has joined the Your Safety Matters (YSM) campaign, led by Police Scotland which launched on the 15 November 2022, with all partners signing up to the assault pledge and commitment to promote the communications campaign.

The aim of this partnership is to develop an integrated approach to tackling violence and aggression. Other partners include the Fire Service, British Transport Police SERCO and the Federation of Grocers.

2.3 Assessment

John Burns signed the 'assault pledge' on behalf of NHS Scotland. However, it is important for all NHS Boards to participate in the campaign and an NHS working group has been adapting the communications materials for use in NHSScotland environments. This group consists of colleagues with experience in marketing, communications, violence and aggression, and health and safety.

The materials are focused on both encouraging reporting from staff, and messages aimed at the public to deter violence and aggressive behaviour.

2.3.1 Financial

There is no additional financial impact to signing up to the pledge

2.4 Recommendation

- **Decision** – to ratify the virtual approval

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Your Safety Matters

National Partners Assault Pledge

Across Scotland we are committed to ensuring your safety at work. Violence or any form of abusive behaviour are not part of the job and will not be tolerated. We take incidents seriously and care about the impact that they have on your physical and emotional well-being. We encourage you to report them.

As a partnership we are committed to:

- Minimising any form of violence and abuse from the workplace.
- Ensuring a safe, healthy and respectful workplace environment, free from violence and abuse.
- Encouraging you to report any forms of violence or abusive behaviour directed towards you when carrying out your duties.
- Ensuring that you are offered appropriate support if you have been affected by violence or abusive behaviour. This can include a referral to Victim Support Scotland.
- Educating our communities on the impacts faced by frontline workers.

#NOTPARTOFTHEJOB

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