

NHS Shetland

Meeting:	Shetland NHS Board
Meeting date:	12 December 2023
Agenda reference:	Board Paper 2023/24/55
Title:	Temporary Revised Approach to Governance Arrangements
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:	Gary Robinson
Report Author:	Carolyn Hand, Corporate Services Manager

1. Purpose

This is presented to the Board/Committee for:

- Decision

This report relates to:

- Government policy/directive
- Local policy

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

- Safe
- Effective
- Person-centred

2. Report summary

2.1. Situation

In light of organisational pressures it was previously agreed to establish temporary, appropriate governance arrangements that supported the organisation for four months up until January 2024. Meetings were not cancelled, however agendas have been reviewed to prioritise any areas of concern, or mandatory reporting, in order to reduce the matters considered and release additional capacity into the system.

It was agreed to revisit this arrangement at the December Board meeting.

2.2. Background

A more agile approach to governance arrangements for a short period of time has been welcomed, however in some areas it has resulted in few agenda items being removed or held over. Generally in recent years the number of items on governance agendas has grown and there is sometimes not enough meeting time to consider papers in detail.

2.3. Assessment

The Board must ensure that the organisation continues to operate within an appropriate legal framework, acts in the best interests of the population, is efficient in the use of resources and puts the safety of staff and patients at the forefront of its efforts.

Board and Standing Committees have gone ahead in line with the Board's meeting schedule. Governance meeting Chairs and Executive Leads have had the authority to review agendas, in liaison with paper authors as required, to consider if there are items that could be held over, standing items that could be temporarily ceased, whether reporting by reception would be acceptable and whether verbal updates rather than written papers would suffice during this time. We have still however seen long agendas which at times have been very tight to cover in the allotted meeting times. This has been a growing concern for a number of years.

Rather than request to extend the temporary revised governance arrangements, a piece of work has commenced to map business through the Board and governance agendas and seek opportunities to streamline this wherever possible. This work is being led by the Chief Executive and has input from Corporate Services, Clinical Governance and Planning. The outcome of this work will be returned to the Board or appropriate governance committee at financial year end.

3. List of appendices

n/a