



NHS Shetland Board

COVID-19 Pandemic Action Minutes

Action (A) / Information (I) / Decision (D)

25 January 2022 at 12:00 via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Gary Robinson (Chair), Malcolm Bell, Colin Campbell, Lincoln Carroll, Michael Dickson, Jane Haswell, Kathy Hubbard, Amanda McDermott, Elizabeth Robinson and Ian Sandilands

Apologies: Dr Kirsty Brightwell, Kathleen Carolan, Brian Chittick, Lorraine Hall, Colin Marsland, Dr Susan Laidlaw and Natasha Cornick.

Mr Dickson represents all Executive and Stakeholder Board Members during the pandemic period who are not in attendance.

Declaration of Interests: None

Action tracker (actions removed once they have been reported as completed)

Date / paper ref	Action	Action Owner	Date closed	Comment
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Agenda / paper ref	A/I/D	Discussion/Rationale	Action Owner	Date closed
		Mr Robinson welcomed new Non-Executive Board Member, Mrs Kathy Hubbard, to her first Board Meeting along with Amy Gallivan, Senior Communications Officer who has recently joined the joint communications team.		
No. 4. (2021/22/57)	I	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic Briefing</p> <p>Ms Robinson provided an update on the current position. Of particular note in the last 2 weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 149 positive cases reported in the last week including LFT and PCR results (15-30 per day). • Vast majority are in children aged 11 or under and schools are managing the situation very well. The positive picture is that children are tending to be less unwell. • Omicron is circulating in Shetland but it is not possible to ascertain if LFT results are Omicron. The national picture is that over 90% of cases are believed to be Omicron. • In some cases a confirmatory PCR test is required following a positive LFT, for instance where someone is high risk and qualifies for Covid treatment. • Vaccine uptake – 2nd highest in Scotland for over 18s, highest in Scotland for all over 40s having boosters, highest in Scotland for 12-15 having 1st doses, 2nd highest in Scotland for 16-17 having 2nd doses. • Key message is around pregnant women who should be encouraged to get their Covid vaccinations. The team is happy to any questions from anyone who is concerned. • Awaiting guidance around isolation periods for care home residents and hospital in-patients 		

Agenda / paper ref	A/I/D	Discussion/Rationale	Action Owner	Date closed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key guidance for H&SC workers changed on 17/1/22 and means a reduction in the number of PCRs required – only a negative LFT required if staff are triple vaccinated • Changes to isolation rules include recommendation to isolate for 10 days but can finish on day 7 if recording a negative LFT on days 6 and 7 (or 7 and 8) • Fully vaccinated contacts may be exempt from isolating if recording a negative LFT • Symptomatic people should get a confirmatory PCR (unless they already have a positive LFT) • Only unvaccinated contacts require a PCR test • The public is encouraged to do LFTs before going to social events, visiting etc 		
		<p>In response to a question regarding WHO concerns around Covid variants globally, Ms Robinson said the Delta variant still existed and can be more harmful so vigilance is still advisable. Services should retain the ability to be agile and respond quickly to changing situations. The Shetland population have responded very well to the guidance throughout the pandemic which has made a considerable difference. It is hoped there will be an element of lead-in time to allow for planning should any new variant be identified elsewhere in the country.</p>		
No. 5.	D	<p>Mr Dickson reminded members it had been agreed that the agile governance footing should be in place for the shortest period possible. It was proposed that the current situation would indicate that it was time to begin transition back to the normal meeting arrangements, programme of work and supported activity.</p> <p>After discussion, members agreed that it was the right time to transition back to business as usual where possible.</p>		
		<p>Mrs Hand stated this would mean a full formal Board Meeting on 15th February and if working to the usual submission deadline, papers should be in next week which may be challenging time-wise for some people. The result could mean some items being deferred till the April meeting.</p>		
No. 6. AOB		<p>Mr Dickson updated members on progress with the Vanguard unit praising the teams from theatres and support from allied health professionals and nursing for the smooth running of the service so far. There had been significant ophthalmology activity carried last week and focus will now transfer to joint replacements.</p>		
		<p>In response to a question from Mr Carroll, Mr Robinson said virtual meetings had initially been contingent on the NHS being on an emergency footing and this remains the case until the end of March 2022. It was therefore expected that virtual meetings would remain till then but will remain under review.</p>		
		<p>Date of next meeting The next formal Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 09:30 via MS Teams.</p>		