

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NSS BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES SINCE SEPTEMBER 2020 NSS BOARD MEETING**FINANCE, PROCUREMENT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 19 November 2020****Issues & Risks for the Board's Attention**

- The Committee encouraged NSS to make best use of its resources to avoid potential staff burnout, and consider the point at which an emergency response becomes business as usual.
- The Committee were keen that NSS should not be constrained by awaiting confirmation of specific, upfront funding in order to take forward initiatives that would demonstrably be of much wider benefit

Emerging Themes for Board Awareness e.g. changing trends in elements of NSS performance

- The Committee heard a presentation on the progress of the Finance Transformation work.
- The Committee noted and approved the externally focused National Procurement Annual Report for 2019/20.
- The Committee agreed to delay the Best Value self-assessment by 12 months due to the ongoing pandemic response

Governance Improvements e.g. actions which have strengthened governance of Committee and should be shared

- The Committee discussed the “Red” measures in the Annual Operating Plan and balancing visibility of what needed to be monitored or improved, and recognising what had been placed on an agreed pause or delayed due to external factors outwith NSS's control.

Other Matters of Interest

- None to report.

STAFF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 19 November 2020

Issues & Risks for the Board's Attention

- None to report.

Emerging Themes for Board Awareness e.g. changing trends in elements of NSS performance

- NSS was beginning to understand the issues affecting staff arising from COVID-19 but there was still further work to be done on this.
- The Committee heard an update on Pulse Survey results and discussed the need for positive and realistic communications to give as much certainty as possible at work.
- Ongoing theme in discussions around role of managers and adapting their management style in the current environment.

Governance Improvements e.g. actions which have strengthened governance of Committee and should be shared

- None to report.

Other Matters of Interest

- The Committee commended the contribution of NSS to the ongoing national pandemic response.
- The Committee heard updates on the delivery of flu vaccinations and preparations for COVID-19 vaccinations.

CLINICAL GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE – 2 December 2020

Issues & Risks for the Board's Attention

- None to report.

Emerging Themes for Board Awareness e.g. changing trends in elements of NSS performance

- The Committee were updated on the various challenges and pressures that the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service was currently facing and were assured by the actions being taken in response.
- The Committee heard a presentation on a proposed product safety approach to Clinical Safety in Scotland and how it would bring Scotland in line with best practice used elsewhere.
- The Committee was updated on the finalisation of the National Screening Oversight Function establishment, with clarity provided on NSS's duties in relation to that.

Governance Improvements e.g. actions which have strengthened governance of Committee and should be shared

- None to report.

Other Matters of Interest

- The Committee approved the annual reports for Clinical Staff Revalidation, Medical Staff Appraisal, and Patient Group Directions.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE – 2 December 2020

Issues & Risks for the Board's Attention

- The Committee had a robust discussion on internal audit of the procurement investigation and were content to approve the report.
- In respect of Service Audit, the Committee were keen that KPMG work with NSS to either get to a wholly unqualified opinion, or agree how the opinion could be presented to the stakeholders to align more closely with previous language and phrasing used.
- Audit Scotland notified the Committee that the timetable for the audit of final accounts is likely to be delayed again but they would seek to minimise that delay as far as possible

Emerging Themes for Board Awareness e.g. changing trends in elements of NSS performance

- The Committee were advised by the Internal and External Audit Teams that, due to the ongoing demands of the COVID-19 response on NSS, the timescales for development of the draft audit plans had needed to be altered. However, they would still be finalised within the normal deadlines.

Governance Improvements e.g. actions which have strengthened governance of Committee and should be shared

- The Committee received an overview of the development of a Board Assurance Framework around risk, and looked forward to seeing the proposed approach being taken forward.

Other Matters of Interest

- The Committee approved the Fraud Management Policy for 20/21, subject to a minor clarification