Purpose of Report

This report updates the Grampian NHS Board on key issues arising from the Area Clinical Forum (ACF) meeting on 10 May 2017.

Staff Health and Well-being

The ACF has regularly discussed staff well-being over a number of years. This is now a standing agenda item and the ACF chair attends the Staff Experience Steering Group. Members continue to highlight the importance of staff well being in the context of the work load pressures that many staff face, the need for staff to feel cared for in order to provide the best possible care to patients, and in relation to concerns about recruitment and retention. Members have highlighted some innovative and helpful approaches to staff well-being and it was agreed that the committee would seek out and collate this information more systematically, as well as trying to identify the barriers or challenges which get in the way of addressing and improving staff well being. Through the professional advisory committees, members have agreed to explore the perspectives of a broad range of colleagues, including those who are newly qualified or still in training, with a view to writing a brief ACF report to share with the Board and senior leadership team in the coming months.

Widening Involvement and Improving Induction for ACF Membership

The first meeting has taken place of the ACF short life working group to address and improve induction to the ACF for new members, and increase awareness and understanding of the advisory structure as a whole amongst clinical colleagues from all professions. Members will be encouraging interested colleagues to observe both the ACF and Board meetings, and would encourage managers from across the organisation to recognise the professional development opportunity that the ACF offers and wherever possible, support clinicians to take an active role in the advisory committees. The committee also recognises that facilitating awareness and involvement and effective induction are all essential to ensure succession planning.

Regional Planning and Delivery of Services

The ACF welcomes the appointment of Malcolm Wright as Regional Implementation Lead for the North of Scotland. The committee recognises the opportunities that more collaborative regional working may bring to build strong clinical services for the north of Scotland. Members also highlighted the importance of building trust and understanding between clinicians in different Board areas and ensuring the continuation of good training opportunities across specialities throughout the region. The ACF will also seek to strengthen links with the advisory committees across the north of Scotland, building on existing links established through the national ACF chairs’ group.

Helen Moffat
Area Clinical Forum Chair
May 2017