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Partnership annual report reveals successes and challenges in Covid-impacted year

Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership's latest annual report has been approved for publication by the city's Integration Joint Board.

The 2021/22 Annual Performance Report measures the successes and the challenges over the past 12 months and provides a national Scottish context for the local performance.

The annual report focuses on the extent to which the arrangements set out in the Partnership's Strategic Plan have contributed to achieving the national health and wellbeing outcomes. Progress is detailed in terms of each strategic aim and the report also notes the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on staff, services and remobilisation efforts.

The report, which relates to the final year of the previous 2019-22 Strategic Plan, highlights the significant progress made in 2021-22 despite current challenges, in particular:

- delivery of the Covid Vaccination Programme;
- progress against the Primary Care Improvement Plan;
- the ongoing work of Link Practitioners and the Stay Well Stay Connected Programme;
- the significant contribution to delayed discharge rates of the Rosewell House facility supported by Bon Accord Care;
- the Hospital at Home Team, and
- the new Care at Home arrangements delivered by the Granite Care Consortium (GCC) to help people stay safe at home and enable timely hospital discharges.

National benchmarking shows:

- the hospital emergency admission rate increased by far less than the Scottish average, demonstrating the intense focus of staff on diverting emergency admissions;
- hospital readmission rates reduced from the previous rate and were better than the Scottish average;
- unscheduled bed days for geriatric long-stay reduced significantly to 24.7% below the average over the last three years;
- the falls rate reduced slightly whereas the Scottish average stayed the same;

- the proportion of care services graded good or better by the Care Inspectorate fell during the period of the annual report, which coincided with the height of the Covid-19 pandemic; the partnership's Care Home Oversight Group is working with providers to improve services;
- the number of days people spent in hospital when ready for discharge increased by 17%, while the Scottish average increase was 57.2%; this indicates the intense focus of staff to achieve safe and timely discharges from hospital and the success of the GCC care at home contract, the new Rosewell House arrangements, and the efforts of the Hospital at Home team;
- the number of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role was above the Scottish average in 2021/22;
- the percentage of adults who agreed they felt safe at home fell 9%, while the Scottish average fell 3%; this is a focus in the new Strategic Plan, with significant activity planned on rehabilitation and complex care;
- the premature mortality rate increased by 6% and is again a priority in the new Strategic Plan.

ACHSCP Chief Officer Sandra MacLeod said in her introduction to the annual report: "The past year has been another challenging one for ACHSCP. Much of the work undertaken during 2021/22 has centred around remobilisation following the initial crisis response to the Covid 19 pandemic and into the 'living with Covid' phase.

"As Aberdeen City begins to get back to normal in the absence of restrictions, we have seen an increase in demand for services. Responding to these needs has not been easy as, in common with other workplaces, we have experienced significant levels of staff absences due to Covid.

"Despite this, staff have continued to deliver quality care to people who are often at their most vulnerable.

"There are no words to express our gratitude to staff for their commitment and dedication during this difficult time. I know some shifts have been hard, I know there hasn't always been the time or resources to provide the level of care we would have wanted, but your efforts have enabled us to continue to provide services in what have been described as some of the most challenging times in the last 30 years.

"The forthcoming financial year will continue to be challenging. However, I have confidence in our workforce and our partners that we will continue to provide the best care we can for the people of Aberdeen.

"Our new Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 outlines our priorities for the next three years. The focus initially will remain with remobilisation and a review of some services, to enable us to do more. We will also refresh our carers strategy to ensure that the right support is available to this group and to enable them to continue their invaluable work."

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