

West of Scotland Sexual Assault and Rape Service – Development of regional service – Progress noted.

3 There was submitted a report by the Interim Chief Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership providing information regarding the progress relating to the development of a model for the West of Scotland (WoS) Sexual Assault and Rape Service, hosted for the west region within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC), advising

- (1) of HM Inspectorate (HMI) of Constabulary in Scotland's 2017 report Strategic Overview of Provision of Forensic Medical Services to Victims of Sexual Crime, which was heavily critical of the care and support provided across Scotland to people who had been raped and sexually assaulted, however the HMI report had acknowledged the Archway Service in Glasgow, established in 2007, as a good example of service delivery and care, but had highlighted that the service was not consistently available for significant periods of time, particularly overnight and at weekends;
- (2) that as a result of the findings of this report, the Scottish Government had convened a Task Force, chaired by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), for the improvement of services for adults and children who had experienced rape and sexual assault and that the Task Force's vision, to be delivered by 2022, would be consistent, person-centred, trauma-informed healthcare and forensic medical services and access to recovery, for anyone who had experienced rape or sexual assault in Scotland;
- (3) of the context and the current level of service delivery within the WoS and the specific challenges in delivering the Service, particularly in the recruitment and retention of doctors, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that in order to facilitate service development across Scotland, the Scottish Government had allocated £8.5m non-recurring funding for both capital and revenue expenditure for 3 years until the end of March 2021, with an expectation that Health Boards would fund continued service development and delivery beyond that point;
- (5) that following a national options appraisal exercise in June 2018, to determine the future service model across Scotland, it was decided to adopt a regional approach enabling services to be delivered in local health board areas, co-ordinated by regional centres of expertise in the West, North and East of the country;
- (6) that the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill had completed all Parliamentary stages and was being scheduled for enactment later in 2021, and would seek to place direct statutory functions on NHS Boards to provide forensic medical services and healthcare support to victims of rape and sexual assault, including those who had chosen not to report the crime to the police or were undecided about doing so, but wished to undergo an examination and access healthcare support, with self-referral

arrangements having been operational in the WoS since Archway had been established;

- (7) that the funding allocation letters from the Scottish Government to NHS Directors of Finance had stated clearly that services must be maintained and funded by Health Boards beyond the period of the non-recurring funding and that the WoS regional model that had been proposed and endorsed by the WoS NHS Chief Executives in February 2020, required total funding of £1,726,571, with the current budget for the Archway Service, including incomes from WoS Boards, being £741,165, resulting in a deficit of £985,406;
- (8) that WoS Health Board Chief Executives had agreed that this funding would be provided by Boards and that funding would be attributed on the basis of a percentage contribution to the overall costs, in line with the percentage activity for the respective Board area, as detailed in the report; and
- (9) that in agreement with the Lord Advocate, the CMO Taskforce had funded a 23-month pilot, due to commence in January 2021, for nurse-led forensic examinations to test the efficacy and legal standing of nurses providing leading evidence in court and that this pilot was being hosted in the WoS service by NHSGGC.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (a) the report;
- (b) the efforts of staff across all Health Boards to secure the considerable progress made in the development of a model for the West of Scotland Sexual Assault and Rape Service which would be hosted for the west region within NHSGGC; and
- (c) the financial contribution to be made on a recurring basis by NHSGGC from April 2021, as detailed in the report.