



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Via email
Ian Kinniburgh
Chair
NHS Orkney

Health and Sport Committee
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Dear Ian,

I refer to the evidence NHS Orkney gave to the Health and Sport Committee on Tuesday 15 May alongside NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles. As has become the normal approach following such sessions the Committee wishes further information on evidence heard during the session and to raise questions there was insufficient time to ask.

The Official Report of the meeting is available [here](#) and for ease of reference I will refer to passages from it by reference to the relevant column numbers.

Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership

In your submission to the Committee you noted a need for change in delivering health and social care. You advised changing demographics meant plans would need to be implemented with speed to ensure services can cope with demand. Can you advise what action and activities are being undertaken to achieve the aims outlined in the Strategic Commissioning Plan?

Waiting Times

Gerry O'Brien advised the Committee NHS Orkney was a "couple of years behind" where you would want to be in terms of mental health services waiting times (COL 32). We would be grateful if you could advise:

- what is happening to ensure service delivery of adult psychological services in the mean time?
- are the steps being taken now adequate to meet long term demand, if not what additional actions are you planning?
- the effectiveness of flexible contracts in attracting new staff?

Elective waiting times

We also note elective waiting times have increased (beyond 12 weeks) since March 2017. You advised in your annual review self-assessment you were working with other boards to increase capacity whilst also invested in additional capacity to reduce waits. We would be grateful if you could advise:

- the extent to which the measures put in place have increased capacity;
- whether budget constraints are a factor in the delivery of this standard; and
- the ways in which tele-clinics have been utilised to help assist with waiting times

Finances

We note in recently published financial monitoring reports you have a projected underspend of £86,000 against your core revenue resource allocations. You also advised brokerage due to the Scottish Government was paid in 2016/17. Can you provide an update on the current financial position of the board?

Savings

The most recent audit of NHS Orkney showed you met the savings target of £2.187 million for 2016/17. 53% of these savings were made on a recurring basis. Can you provide an update on savings achieved at the end of 2017/18 split between recurring and one-offs?

Finally we would welcome details of your future savings plans.

The Committee would welcome your response to this letter by 31 July.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald
Convener
Health and Sport Committee