

Chairman's Update

A few key activities to report upon since the last NHS NSS Board meeting:

Annual Review

The 2010/11 NSS Annual Review process was completed successfully with both the formal public meeting being completed and the letter from Cabinet Secretary received in the period since the last Board Meeting. This year the public meeting did not have ministerial attendance (following the decision to ensure such attendance is now at a minimum of a two-yearly cycle), and this obviously reduced the public attendance. However, the opportunity did allow for a serious review of a number of matters in a public environment, and the NSS team deserve credit for the time and effort that was put into making the day run smoothly. The letter from the Cabinet Secretary is positive and will be circulated separately.

Meeting with Michael Matheson, Minister for Public Health

Ian Crichton and I met with the (relatively) new minister to provide him with a briefing on the work of NSS. During a positive and upbeat meeting the Minister showed a keen interest in our work in a number of areas, and was grateful for the update. The first concrete action as a result is a planned visit to NSS Counter Fraud Services in November.

Public Sector Climate Action Group Meeting

As representative of the NHSScotland Chairs Group I attended a further meeting of the Ministerial / Local Authority group created to lead progress to the Scottish Government 2020 Climate Change objectives. I reported back on NHSScotland progress, and colleagues from both SGHD and NSS Health Facilities Scotland will assist in the work of a newly formed Officers Group that will continue efforts between the meetings of the Ministerial group.

NHS Chairs Group

The NHS Chairs group held an informal dinner with the Cabinet Secretary - an event which was extremely useful in providing space to talk about a number of matters outside of the formality of the regular chairs meeting. As well as covering a number of areas of policy, we also had a frank discussion on how to gain maximum productivity out of the formal event. Separately, as vice-chair of this group, I am co-ordinating the election of a new Chair in advance of the retirement of the current incumbent in December.

NSS Offsite

Colleagues will have recognised the effort that went into the preparation of the annual NSS Offsite at the Beardmore Hotel, and hopefully feel that it continues to be an excellent opportunity for the Board to spend more time addressing key issues of strategy. This year the participants recognised the significant effort and progress in NSS over the last three years, to the point that a serious discussion on strategy did not feel like a luxury.

Board Recruitment

The process of replacing one retiring board member, and recruiting another to fill a current gap, continues. I attended an OCPAS Workshop as part of this process, and have just completed the paperwork regarding my participation in the panel. The formal kickoff for the recruitment process (a requirement of the new OCPAS code) will take place shortly.

NHS Chairs Offsite Meeting

In line with the desire of the Board to progress the matter of shared services, I am facilitating a session on this topic at the annual away day for NHS Chairs. This is intended to air the topic (with the support of Simon Belfer) ahead of a more formal Chairs session with the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Cities Strategy in January.

Key Meetings undertaken since my last update include:

5 th September	Public Sector Climate Action Group
12 th September	NSS Annual Review
16 th September	NSS Clinical Governance Committee
20 th September	Michael Matheson, Minister for Public Health
26 th September	NHS Chairs Meetings
5-6 th October	NSS Off-Site
6 th October	NHS Chairs Dinner with the Cabinet Secretary
11 th October	OCPAS Workshop
31 st October	NHS Chairs Meetings
1 st November	NHS Chairs Off-site

Bill Matthews
Chairman
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