

OFFICIAL:SENSITIVE – DRAFT AND NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

NHS Tayside

On 17 August 2015, the Sharing Intelligence for Health & Care Group¹ considered a wide range of data/information about NHS Tayside. This note summarises the key conclusions reached by the group during this meeting.

The group agreed that much of the information considered did not appear to be drawing attention to significant or widespread concerns about the quality of care provided for the residents of Tayside.

Overall, NHS Tayside are complying with the majority of the infection control standards. However, compliance with the standards has been variable at Ninewells Hospital – and following the most recent inspection the Scottish Government invoked the Chief Nursing Officer's algorithm, with Health Protection Scotland asked to provide support to NHS Tayside.

The group was informed of some real/potential concerns about mental health and learning disability services in Tayside. Specifically, the results from the General Medical Council's National Trainee Survey raise issues about the training environment for psychiatry at the Murray Royal Hospital (Perth). The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland is aware of concerns from staff about pressure on acute adult psychiatric admission beds at Carseview (Dundee) and patients from here being transferred to the Murray Royal Hospital. The Commission also has some concerns about the environment for the learning disability service at Carseview, and the lack of a clear plan (with timescales) to address this. As a result of this, the Commission, NHS Education for Scotland, and Healthcare Improvement Scotland will seek to coordinate their ongoing activities in relation to mental health and learning disability services in Tayside.

The other main issue the group noted relates to the pressures on NHS Tayside's budget, where brokerage from Scottish Government has been required and there is also an acknowledged overreliance on nonrecurring savings. The group also noted that the appointment of the new Director of Finance is on an interim basis, and that Audit Scotland has recommended that the Board should review the effectiveness of their budget setting process and seek to better understand and address the underlying reasons for its key overspends.

There is a high proportion of excellent social care services (with grades of very good and excellent for all themes) within NHS Tayside, especially within the Dundee City area, and there are no services with the poorest grades (grades of weak or unsatisfactory for every theme).

The group noted that when the Board of NHS Tayside recently considered the Board performance report, the Chief Executive advised of the potential for there to be a significant deterioration in performance. NHS Tayside has raised this with the Scottish Government.

The group noted that, while it considered a range of data/information about acute health services and also social care, there is a significant gap in relation to intelligence about health services provided in the community.

¹ Includes representation from Audit Scotland, Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland, Public Health & Intelligence.