

Chief Executive's Report
10 October 2024 Board Meeting
Dr Adam Coldwells, Interim Chief Executive



Purpose of this report

This report updates Board members on priority issues since the last Board meeting which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Acute Medical Initial Assessment / Scottish Ambulance Service Test of Change

Having previously shared a number of initiatives aimed at enhancing flow through our system in these reports, I am pleased to be able to highlight another this month.

NHS Grampian and the Scottish Ambulance Service have been working closely together over a number of months to implement the principles set out under Safe Transfer of Care, facilitating safe and timeous handovers at hospital. Through this ongoing collaboration a suite of measures have been implemented. These include Call before you Convey, as well as whole-system initiatives such as the Safe Transfer of Patients (SToP) project to increase assessment capacity and flow at the front-door.

These have had a welcome, positive impact but we have not yet achieved the scale of improvement which is required. Our system remains extremely challenged and, with winter on the horizon, we need to go further and continue to challenge ourselves to develop fresh approaches to persistent issues.

Later this month we will begin a test of change within Acute Medical Initial Assessment (AMIA) whereby SAS staff will identify clinically stable patients and on arrival to the hospital take them directly to the unit and hand them over to AMIA staff, at which point SAS crews will leave and return to duty. This test of change recognises that a clinician-to clinician conversation has already occurred.

In parallel NHS Grampian and SAS are also developing a process to support the rapid release of Ambulances, recognising that a shared decision / risk model as seen in other Boards could also bring benefits. However, the test of change recognises enduring challenges may be exacerbated during the winter and will come into effect in the meantime without delay. We will then, of course, keep this test of change under ongoing review with the potential for adjustment or expansion as appropriate.

Dr Adam Coldwells, Interim Chief Executive 10 October, 2024