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Reflections from the IJB Chairs & Vice Chairs Network 2020/21

The IJB Network has a strong and active membership with participation from all integration authorities across Scotland. The IJB Network is supported by an Executive Group of 10 Chairs & Vice Chairs (half NHS and half Local Authority, with a broad geographic spread), who meet monthly to discuss key priorities, strategic policy issues and to plan IJB Network events. In spring 2020 a new Strategic Support Officer was appointed to support the development of the Network and to link with colleagues in HSCS, Scottish Government, COSLA and other key partners. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Executive Group represent the IJB Network in a number of national forums including the Scottish Government Mobilisation Recovery Group, NHS Corporate Governance Steering Group and COSLA Health and Social Care Board.

Much of the focus in 2020/21 has been related to the COVID-19 pandemic and from September 2020 on the input to and recommendations from IRASC. The Chairs and Vice Chairs have met with the Cabinet Secretary and Cllr Currie to look at key issues around winter planning and governance. Due to the number of members, series of smaller Network meetings have been hosted throughout the year to allow meaningful participation and discussion of key issues for example to contribute views to IRASC.

In 2021 a programme of online events have been scheduled around priority themes including primary care and regulatory bodies and guest speakers will be invited to contribute their perspective. A number of small groups of Chairs and Vice Chairs are being convened as a space for discussion, to identify best practice and to liaise with partners. The groups are on the themes of (i) data, risk and performance management, (ii) Island, rural and remote issues, (iii) third and independent sector.

The Chairs and Vice Chairs AGM takes place in September where the Executive Group will be voted in along with a Chair and Vice Chair for the Network. Some succession planning is required in 2021 due to local government election in May 2022 which will see changes to those Chairs and Vice Chairs who are elected members.

The IJB Network and Executive Group are committed to working with the three other groups comprising Health and Social Care Scotland and hope there continues to be regular engagement among the groups. When the new government is in place post-election, the IJB Network will seek to be a key partner in developing and implementing IRASC recommendations which proposed significant changes to IJBs.

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