**NHS Highland/North Skye Communications Stream - Key points and actions from Teams meeting 10 December 2021 at 10.30am DRAFT**

**Present:** Ross MacKenzie, Catriona MacDonald, Pat Matheson, Ross Cowie, Mairi MacDonald, Cathy Shaw, Iona MacDonald (Minutes).

**Apologies:** Rhiannon Boydell (now seconded to vaccination programme), Milne Weir (N. Regional Director, SAS, seconded to NHSH to give additional capacity with comms, retention, recruitment, etc, locally), Sophie Isaacson (due to power cut), Neil Campbell (unable to log in).

**Notes of previous meeting (12 November 2021)**

Approved

**Actions from previous meeting:**

Ross Cowie – new road sign at bottom of hospital road was in hand, following discussion with HC roads engineer.

DNR Decisions – it was emphasised again that this was a medical decision, usually taken jointly between the consultant/GP and the patient. This should never be in patient notes without the patient’s knowledge. Anticipatory Care Plans are discussed between GP and patient. Catriona raised the point that there was a community rumour that Home Farm had had an automatic DNR in place for residents. This was emphatically not the case. Several HF residents had been transferred to hospital during the Covid outbreak. Ross Cowie mentioned that Home Farm (during the HC-One tenure) had refused the offer of a defibrillator. Mairi reported that there was ongoing concern that patients were being pressurised into accepting a DNR in their records. Action: Ross MacKenzie would invite a member of the medical team to the next meeting to reassure/confirm.

**Recruitment**

Vacancies were being shared with Sophie for local information. NHS jobs are also shown on NHS JobsTrain <https://apply.jobs.scot.nhs.uk/> though some may be viewable only by current NHS personnel. The local community was pulling resources to make the process as easy as possible for applicants and successful candidates, such as the new Portree GP, e.g., housing, and a meeting would be arranged with Milne Weir before Christmas to discuss. Action: Ross M to arrange.

**Vax and Booster Campaign (Cathy Shaw)**

Very busy but doing very well. S & SW Ross will have boosted all those over 40 requiring it in clinics taking place from Jan 10th which will be bookable via the portal. The portal will be open in the next week or so. Also open to under 40s. These will use the two centres of Tigh na Drochaid and Kyleakin Hall. These are not ideal but there are limited options. These should be complete by the end of January but there may be mop-up sessions until the end of March.

Currently building permanent vaccine teams who will administer all types of vaccines including childhood vaccines – this is likely to be the case in NHSH from next year. Building teams of vaccinators and administrators. Also testing – pre-op testing, NHS24, social work requests (for care homes), OOH – drop-in until end of September. Omicron variant likely to put additional pressure on system.

Catriona agreed that the roll-out was now going smoothly, and there had been vaccinations at home for house-bound residents. Cathy commented that some vaccinations had even been given in the car for those who were restricted in mobility or unable to stand in line for any length of time. Pat mentioned that district nurses were able to accommodate, but that vaccines required to be ordered two weeks in advance and 6 recipients were required to make sure that there was no wastage.

**Hospitals**

Hospitals had been very busy but managing flow. Portree had increased bed numbers to 11, 2 of which were flexi-beds, governed by the nurse in charge and available to patients who were not a fall risk, etc, as the nurses’ station does not have sight of the beds.

**Care Homes**

Keir Construction were to be on site at Home Farm from the first week in January and would be finished by the end of May. There had been supply issues with windows and it had taken longer to agree a programme of works than originally anticipated. Currently operating 19 beds, there will be up to 35 beds on completion, but capacity is capped at 19 until works are finished. There are still 2 residents in off-island accommodation waiting for island beds.

This was welcomed by Catriona who recommended that a press release might be in order to give people the good news. Action: Ross M to arrange.

**AOCB**

Mairi asked whether a new care company had started offering 24-hour care on the island, as a former Home Farm resident requiring 24-hour care was being moved home. None of the NHS staff on the call were aware of any such new provision.

Catriona requested that a new link/schedule of meetings be sent out as the old link had now expired. Action: Ross M

**Close**

The meeting finished at 11.10am.