



Health & Social Care Moray

Media release

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£4.5 million shortfall in health and social care budget

The Moray Integration Joint Board (IJB) is facing a significant budget gap for 2018/19.

At the meeting of the board on 29 March, members warned that making the necessary £4.5 million savings in Moray's already under-pressure health and social care system will inevitably have consequences for patients and service users.

The scale of the financial challenge ahead and the need for Health & Social Care Moray to make savings while continuing to deliver services and provide quality care, has still to be fully realised by the public, board members considered.

In her report to the IJB, Chief Financial Officer Tracey Abdy highlighted budget pressures including prescribing costs, pay awards, complex packages of care and contracts with external service providers.

£116.864 million is needed to deliver core services in 2018/19. With £112.268 million funding coming from NHS Grampian and Moray Council, a £4.5 million shortfall remains to be addressed.

The board - made up of members drawn from Moray Council and NHS Grampian along with voluntary sector, carer and service-user representatives – approved proposals savings of £1 million.

Mrs Abdy highlighted this was insufficient to meet the financial challenge ahead and an unbalanced budget remained.

"We continue to work to identify additional savings whilst striving to drive the pace of change through service redesign," she reported.

"Undoubtedly, it has been challenging to make this identification in an environment where there is significant growth in our ageing population and increasing demands on services, compounded by a large proportion of budgets being limited by contractual obligation."

Chair Christine Lester said: "None of this is on the public's radar yet and we must do more to engage with localities."

Clinical lead Dr Graham Taylor said there was a "massive challenge" to the operational delivery of services which must continue to be safe and effective.

Chief Officer Pam Gowans told the board that recovery plans and the ongoing risks to the stability of the health and social care system continued to be flagged up to Moray Council and NHS Grampian.



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A progress report will be brought to the IJB at the 28 June meeting.

ENDS

Notes:

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 set a legal framework for integrating health and social care in Scotland. Each health board and council was required to transfer some of its functions to new integration authorities. By doing this, a single system for planning and delivering health and social care services is created locally.

The integration authority in this area came into existence in the form of Moray Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 1 April 2016. Responsibility for planning and delivering the majority of adult health and social care services is delegated from Moray Council and NHS Grampian to this new body.

The IJB sets the strategic direction for health and social care staff who work in partnership as Health & Social Care Moray to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.