



ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 23 FEBRUARY 2022
PRIMARY CARE IMPROVMENT FUND UPDATE
GAIL SMITH, CHIEF OFFICER

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Angus Primary Care Improvement Fund Reserve.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:-

- (i) Note the position of the Primary Care Improvement Fund (PCIF) reserve.
- (ii) Support and approve the proposals for spend of reserves to progress delivery of Primary Care Improvement Plan (PCIP).
- (iii) Note all proposals have been developed in collaboration between Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCP) with Local Medical Committee (LMC) / GP Sub Committee support.
- (iv) Devolve future decision making to the Chief Officer in relation to spend against PCIF reserves as long as the proposals align with the requirements of PCIP and IJB's Strategic Commissioning Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

The 2018 GMS contract and associated Memorandum of Understanding, aims to create a sustainable model of general practice through the development of an enhanced multidisciplinary team working in and around general practice, enabling GPs to have more capacity to fulfil their role as Expert Medical Generalists.

The following areas were identified as key priority areas:

- The Vaccination Transformation Programme.
- Pharmacotherapy Services.
- Community Care and Treatment Services.
- Urgent care (advanced practitioners).
- Additional professional roles - such as musculoskeletal focused Physiotherapy Services.
- Community Links Workers (referred to in Angus as Social Prescribers).

The original term of the Contract was March 2018 until March 2021, this period was subsequently extended and a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU 2) was set out by Scottish Government in July 2021.

MoU 2 sets out a revised target delivery date. For some areas of the contract it will be the end of this year i.e:

- The vaccination transformation programme.
- Pharmacotherapy services.
- Community Care and treatment services.

With others having a revised target delivery date at the end of 2022 / 2023, Primary Care Improvement Funds have been released each year of the contract term, to enable Integration Joint Boards (IJB) to progress their plans.

3. CURRENT POSITION

Slippage in plans since 2018 has resulted in a reserve being held by the IJB.

Under spends have occurred in each of the previous financial years:

2018/19 -£568k

2019/20 -£274k

2020/21 - £824k

This along with the current year under spend forecast of £1,035k is projected to increase the total reserve held by the end of 2021/22 to c£2,700k.

Slippage in Primary Care Improvement Plans has occurred principally due to workforce challenges and inability to successfully recruit across a number of professions on the scale required to deliver the contract aspiration. This situation is not unique to Angus or even Tayside, a number of Health Board areas particularly those out with the Central Belt Region face the same challenge. Local difficulties with Agenda for Change banding and job reviews have exacerbated the recruitment challenges.

The Primary Care Improvement Fund, is itself ring fenced, meaning that funding is unable to be directed towards other areas within Primary Care.

Following an update on the Primary Care Improvement Plan presented to the IJB in December 2021, it was agreed to provide a further update in February 2022 to include a plan proposing how reserves could be deployed in a manner that is consistent with PCIP purposes and reflecting that this is non recurring funding. Given the imperative of this position for Tayside as a whole, it was agreed that a collation of ideas would take place on a regional basis with Angus HSCP working collaboratively with Dundee and Perth HSCPs; and the LMC.

4. PROPOSALS

Working collectively the following initiatives have been identified as a suitable use for this available resource.

- Local Project Management support for Primary Care PCIP to help progress and accelerate plans at pace.
- Local and contribute to Regional Project Management/technical support aligned to Premises agenda. Posts should be time limited. Indicative Cost £800k over four years shared proportionally with Dundee and Perth & Kinross HSCPs.
- Continuation of support for GP Recruitment and Retention – Career Start for further 3 years.
- General Practice Nurse (GPN) Lead, Band 8a - Contribution to regional role to professionally support General Practice Nursing and the Transforming Practice Nursing agenda.
- Extension to Medlink across Tayside - Noting that for Angus this may release funds that were previously committed. Support across Tayside for 2 years including Project Support. Extension to Community Care and Treatment Services test of change/pilot.
- Practice Back Scanning - In Angus this would entail the repurposing of funds already committed to this initiative.
- Non Medical Prescribing back-fill for GP time.

All estimates to date indicate the above can be comfortably accommodated within the forecast reserve. Costings and plans for each initiative will be refined in due course.

While all proposals have been developed in collaboration between Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCP) and the Local Medical Committee (LMC), it should be noted that the above list does still require the formal support of the LMC.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the above proposals will be contained within non-recurring PCIP under spends currently held within Angus IJB reserves. The costs of these proposals do not impact

on existing plans to deliver the requirements of the 2018 GMS Contract within recurring funds available.

6. RISK

- (i) Inability to commit and spend PCIF funds to support Primary Care.
- (ii) Inability to recruit to posts thereby increasing the level of under spend.
- (iii) Inability to progress delivery of PCIP.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

N/A

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this report reflects delivery of a national contract and all aspects of the program have a focus on ensuring access for all population cohorts.

9. DIRECTIONS

The Integration Joint Board requires a mechanism to action its strategic commissioning plans and this is provided for in Section 26 to 28 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This mechanism takes the form of binding directions from the Integration Joint Board to one or both of Angus Council and NHS Tayside.

Direction Required to Angus Council, NHS Tayside or Both	Direction to:	
	No Direction Required	X
	Angus Council	
	NHS Tayside	
	Angus Council and NHS Tayside	

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