Dear Carole,

**HIS REMOBILISATION PLAN 4 2021-2022 (30 SEPTEMBER 2021)**

Thank you for submitting the latest HIS Remobilisation Plan 4 (RMP4), which we received on 30 September 2021, and updates HIS’ priorities through to March 2022.

**Feedback on RMP4**

HIS’ RMP4 will be used as the basis for engagement with the Scottish Government (SG) over the coming months along with our Operating Framework. As always, the plan was shared with members of the SG/HIS Internal Network for their review. Their detailed feedback, along with that of other policy colleagues and the Sponsor Team, has already been passed on to HIS, and we thank you for your consideration of this. Feedback will continue to be provided to HIS by individual policy teams / budget holders across the SG, and it is vital that this feedback should be taken on board as HIS move into the next phase of RMP4.

I recognise that some inspections are being reshaped in order to balance HIS’ legislative requirements and the impact on NHS staff - particularly front line staff while the NHS is under immense pressure over the winter period. I thank HIS for their efforts and flexibility in this independent area.

In my previous letter responding to your RMP3 submission, I recognised that many areas of HIS’ work - such as elements of the Excellence in Care and Scottish Patient Safety Programme had been paused due to COVID-19. I am pleased that they have restarted and am looking forward to seeing the benefits of Essentials of Safe Care on patient safety as we recover from COVID-19 in health and care settings as it evolves and develops.

Mental Health (MH) was mentioned as a priority in RMP3 and we are pleased to see the breadth of individual MH work streams mentioned in RMP4. Conversations SG have had to date with HIS have highlighted that MH continues to remain a top priority.

There had previously been preparation work and an application approved for a Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Guideline, with an advisory group established to consider its development. This was due to start in April 2020 but was paused as a result of COVID-19.
We understand and are content with the pause but would seek assurance that HIS will keep this status under review. There is a need for Scottish guidance on this and would welcome an update on whether this work will be considered for your work-plan in 22/23.

We note that your work on asthma has been reduced in RMP4, and would welcome a discussion with HIS on this when convenient.

I understand that HIS are in early discussion regarding supporting NSS’ review of the Gender Reassignment Protocol for Scotland. I also understand early discussions have taken place with SG and NSS in relation to the development of standards and indicators to support gender identity healthcare across Scotland.

I was delighted to hear that Dr Simon Watson has recently engaged in conversation with SG regarding improving safety alerting in Scotland. HIS involvement here is very much welcomed as this is an important and complex area of safety that is ripe for improvement and a priority for us. I look forward to hearing how this area progresses in due course.

I would like to thank HIS for providing infection prevention and control support to the Care Inspectorate’s inspection of care homes.

I am also pleased to see that, where possible given the current circumstances, HIS are giving thought to the future, beyond 2021/22.

Finance

Following detailed financial Q1 review, Richard McCallum, Director of Health Finance and Governance, wrote to HIS on 26 October to confirm that full funding will be provided for Covid-19 and remobilisation costs on a non-repayable basis. This letter also set out expected actions for the remainder of the year and in advance of the 2022-23 financial year.

Health Finance have received the financial return from HIS and are working through the detail included. Where further clarification is required Health Finance will follow up with your Director of Finance engaging sponsorship as required.

Costs in relation to remobilisation should continue to be reported through quarterly finance returns – but do please copy in the Sponsor Team when doing this. HIS must ensure that any recurring impact from these actions is clearly reported, as this is a key focus of the finance review in advance of the draft Scottish Budget on 9 December.

Winter Planning

The SG recognises how challenging the forthcoming Winter is likely to be for the entire health and care service and we stand ready to support you wherever possible to meet those challenges.

RMP4 Next Steps

We ask that you now take your updated RMP4 for the second half of 2021/22 through your own governance processes and publish it on your website with this sign off letter.

In order to monitor progress on the delivery of your RMP4 going forward, the SG are putting in place arrangements to request quarterly progress updates against the key deliverables that you have identified. Updates should be submitted to the Sponsor Team at the end of
January 2022, covering Q3, and at the end of April 2022, covering Q4. These updates should include any changes to your plans for the following quarters. Details on the specific requirements for these updates will be issued in due course.

Three Year Operational Recovery Plans 2022-25

We are proposing to move to a longer-term period of three years for future Operational Plans to enable a more strategic approach to planning and support programmes of service transformation, aligned with the NHS Recovery Plan and the Care and Wellbeing Portfolio.

These three-year plans will take the form of a Recovery Plan for the period of 2022-25. They will encompass a relatively high level narrative setting out HIS key priorities for recovery and transformation within this period, and how these contribute to our national priorities, underpinned by a spreadsheet-based Annual Delivery Plan (ADP). This latter element, which will build on the format and content of the delivery planning template used for RMP4, will continue to form the basis for ongoing engagement as well as regular quarterly progress reports to the SG, recognising the continuing fluidity in our operating context and supporting responsive changes to plans in-year.

In recognition of the pressures that you are currently working under, and the high level of uncertainty and volatility that remains in the system, these three year plans will be scheduled for submission at the end of July 2022. We intend that that this will allow sufficient time for you to take stock of your position as we move out of Winter, to consider your priorities, engage meaningfully with your staff, partners, communities and stakeholders on their desired outcomes, and to develop greater integration between your service, finance and workforce plans.

We are also moving back to three year financial planning, and whilst we anticipate requiring some details of plans in advance of the start of the financial year, we will use the Q1 review in 2022-23 as an opportunity for HIS to refresh their financial plans to align with three-year operational plans. Further detail will be provided on this process in due course.

Conclusion

I would like to thank HIS for its continued support during the pandemic. I recognise the challenges that COVID-19 has placed upon HIS, and its staff. I would like to thank everyone at HIS for the many great achievements since RMP3.

I can confirm that this concludes the current review phase of HIS’ Remobilisation Plan.

Please contact the Sponsorship Team if you have any queries on the content of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Linda Pollock
HIS Sponsor Lead