Dear Colleagues,

Did you know that the Shared Services Health Portfolio has been asked to take a ‘Best for Scotland’ approach to Radiology Services?

The shared services team began by reviewing the significant amount of work already undertaken by Boards and collated a baseline in relation to the service. In January the Board Chief Executives endorsed a proposal to develop the cases for a national data system and national radiology reporting together with a visioning paper outlining options for a sustainable future service model. To advance the work a Visioning Workshop was held on 25 February 2016. The purpose of the Workshop was to inform an “Initial Agreement”, the first stage of a Business Case for change. A number of people identified by NHS Boards attended the workshop.

Background information to demonstrate the current landscape within Radiology Services was provided to delegates prior to the workshop along with a set of expectations for the event.

This newsletter provides an outline of the day and what was achieved. Please share this update with your colleagues.

Brian Montgomery
Health Portfolio Director
March 2016

Workshop key speakers

Dr Brian Montgomery, Shared Services Health Portfolio Director set the scene for the day, providing background on Shared Services and the Radiology Programme. He asserted that the current Radiology Service is unsustainable and that there is an exciting opportunity and mandate to redesign, to achieve the “Best for Scotland” in respect of Radiology services in Scotland.
Dr Hamish McRitchie, Consultant Radiologist and newly appointed Subject Matter Expert (SME) to the Radiology Programme outlined a patient journey and how radiology and other clinical services which were geographically dispersed supported that patient’s diagnosis and management. He outlined the national landscape of radiology services, including the position on reporting and on nationally comparable data. He posed some questions on what would be possible, should these mechanisms be available.

Dr Anne-Marie Sinclair, Consultant Radiologist and Lead Clinician for the Scottish Clinical Imaging Network (SCIN) described the challenges for radiology around workforce and data from the Scottish Clinical Imaging Network’s viewpoint.

**Workshop activities**

Breakout groups were formed to undertake a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis on Radiology Services. The outcomes of the SWOT analysis outlined the challenges facing radiology services and also provided a number of exciting opportunities which began to capture the vision for future Radiology Services. These opportunities were then discussed at length and prioritised according to how much improvement they would make to the radiology service.

An activity was then undertaken to explore ‘The Art of the Possible– what if?’ At what level could Radiology Services be delivered if certain mechanisms were in place; such as an agreed data set for radiology which is collected and shared, the ability to report on images nationally, contractual arrangements to allow reporting for other Boards, protocol-driven access to investigations and agreed Clinical Governance/Quality Assurance. There was a consensus amongst participants that many services could be provided at a national or regional level should these mechanisms be in place.

**Outcome of the Workshop**

The workshop participants agreed that the actions needed as a priority for a sustainable, future Radiology service were:

- Nationally agreed imaging pathways
- A Co-ordinated approach to out of hours services
- Support for remote and rural Boards for in-hours reporting
- National approach to Radiographer Reporting
- Mapping exercise to identify demand, capacity, staffing and equipment
- Specify the IT requirements necessary to support a Radiology service for Scotland

All of these should come together as part of a National Radiology Strategy.
The information gathered at the workshop will inform the “Initial Agreement”, the first stage of a Business Case for change that will be considered by the Shared Services Portfolio Board and ultimately the Board Chief Executives.

Further engagement will take place involving a wider group of stakeholders. This will include staff working within radiology departments who access the investigations and have expertise available to assist the management of patients. We will continue to engage with the Scottish Health Council, Partnership and others about meaningful engagement with staff, patients and the wider public.

The first steps of our business case will begin to develop over the next couple of months.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the Radiology Programme, please email Linda W Kerr, Programme Manager, lindawkerr@nhs.net or Fiona Agnew, Project Manager, fiona.agnew1@nhs.net.