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PSC SPECIALIST REFERENCE GROUP – BRIEFING - PAPER 1

Cumberlege Review

Baroness Cumberlege's proposal for a Patient Safety Commissioner (PSC) stemmed from her findings that patients' voices and experiences were ignored in the time leading up to the Review. Where patients and their families identified and reported harms, these reports were not acted on. She envisaged that the role would seek to address several areas for improvement in patient safety, set out in the report, including:

- The need for more widespread and timely recognition by the patient safety system of issues identified by patients and public.
- The need for the patient safety system to get better at listening to, and acting on, patients' experiences of avoidable harm.
- The need to be swifter, and for better co-ordination across and between agencies.

The establishment of a PSC for Scotland, with an **emphasis on championing the patient voice within the patient safety system, and adding value to the existing policies which promote the input of patients and the public to decisions about their care**, is now a Programme for Government commitment.

The PSC will focus initially on the issues covered by Baroness Cumberlege in her Review – medicines and medical devices.

There are a number of policies and organisations already in place to support patients when things have gone wrong. Nonetheless it appears from the Cumberlege Review that there is still a gap. By talking to, and working in collaboration with, those affected, we want to identify why that is and how it can be addressed.

Patient Reference Group

The PSC Patient Reference Group has been established to advise on the development of proposals for the appointment of a PSC for Scotland. Members of the group represent, and connect with, their wider networks (Mesh, Primodos and Sodium Valproate) - ensuring that their views are fed in, and that they are kept up to date as this work develops.

Members of the group were self-nominated, following an open invitation sent out via the ALLIANCE, and SG Pharmacy and Medicines colleagues to their stakeholder networks.

The group has held its first meeting, and there was some focus on making group members aware of what already exists in Scotland to support patients to make their voices heard on issues of patient safety, and on gaining an understanding of what the

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group feel a PSC role can add to this and what is important to them. The intention is that this group will have a strong influence on what will eventually be put out for wider public consultation.

Specialist Reference Group

In parallel to the PSC Patient Reference Group, the intention is to establish a PSC Specialist Reference Group, this will be made up of key Scottish (national scrutiny / professional) organisations with a remit to map the current landscape.

Public Consultation

As set out above, contributions from both the PSC Patient Reference Group and the PSC Specialist Reference Group will inform the questions for a wider public consultation on what a PSC role might look like.

Following consultation, there may be a requirement for legislative changes, which will be determined by the status and remit of the PSC role.

Yours sincerely

Safety, Openness and Learning Team