

Health and social care chief officer Fiona Davies makes service pledge

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THE new chief officer of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership has pledged to continue to aim to deliver high-quality services in the area.

Fiona Davies was awarded the position on an interim basis in April 2021, before taking it up on a permanent basis in February 2022.

In her first report since then, Ms Davies has issued details of numerous operations being conducted by the partnership (HSCP).

The report will go before directors of the HSCP's integration joint board (IJB) at its virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 30.

Ms Davies said: "Following appointment on February 4 to the permanent post of chief officer, I am honoured and it is a privilege to be working with HSCP staff, partners and voluntary organisations.

"My focus will be to continue to deliver high quality health and social care services and to ensure the HSCP achieves the best possible outcomes for the people of Argyll and Bute.

“In my first blog to staff, I have focused on the need to bring clarity of our organisational structure and arrangements to staff, so that every post holder can be clear on how valued their role is to the collective effort we all make in our work.

“I also discussed the need to bring as transparency to the process of decision making, which can feel opaque to staff.”

Ms Davies also paid tribute to HSCP staff who had recently won awards and commendations.

She added: “Community addictions nurse Hannah Parker was recently awarded colleague of the year 2021 at the Mental Health Nursing Forum (MHNF) for Scotland Awards.

“These virtual awards recognised the work of mental health nurses from across Scotland and everything that they have achieved over the last 12 months.

“Hannah has been a community addictions nurse within the HSCP for the past three years and during this time, she’s qualified as a non-medical prescriber and has also just commenced in post as an addictions advanced nurse practitioner.

“Part of Hannah’s role is supporting people who may face various challenges around issues with drugs and alcohol and ensuring local communities have access to the necessary support and resources.

“Seonaid Morrison, advanced nurse in diabetes, Jessica May Fletcher, diabetes specialist dietitian and practice nurse, Kate Paton, have been awarded a highly commended certificate at the 2021 X-PERT awards.

“This award recognises the team’s work around the X-PERT Diabetes Programme being delivered across Argyll and Bute. The programme provides support for those living with, or at high risk of developing, Type 2 diabetes.

“The team provides continuous support to patients throughout the six-week programme, with regular reviews and recommending tools and techniques to use. They combine digital content patient learning with a printed handbook.”