# NHS Golden Jubilee

### **Meeting: NHS Golden Jubilee Board**

### **Meeting date: 30 May 2024**

### **Title: NHS Golden Jubilee Code of Conduct**

### **Responsible Executive/Non-Executive: Gordon James, Chief Executive**

**Susan Douglas-Scott, Board Chair**

### **Report Author: Nicki Hamer, Head of Corporate Governance and Board Secretary**

## 1 Purpose

### This is presented to NHS Golden Jubilee Board for:

### Assurance

### Decision

### This report relates to a:

* Government policy/directive
* Local Policy

### This aligns to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition(s):

* Safe
* Effective
* Person Centred

**This aligns to all of NHSGJ Corporate Objectives**

## 2 Report summary

## 2.1 Situation

This paper has been developed to provide NHS Golden Jubilee Board with the annual review of the Code of Conduct for approval. There has been Revised Guidance issued from the Standards Commission for Scotland which has required additional information being included within NHS GJ Code of Conduct.

## 2.2 Background

Board Members were circulated a copy of the Model Code of Conduct for devolved Public Bodies, subsequent to approval of the Model Code by the Scottish Parliament in December 2021.

Following the approval of the Model Code, the Board Secretaries Group, together with The Corporate Governance Steering Committee within NHS Scotland and the Standards Commission, worked on production of a “Once for Scotland” Code for each NHS Board.

All NHS Boards were asked to approve a Code of Conduct on the basis of the “Once for Scotland” approach. The proposed NHS Golden Jubilee Code of Conduct forms Appendix 1 to this Report.

The Model Code Guidance was revised in light of feedback and issues arising during the Ethical Standards Commissioner’s investigations and Hearings workshop in March 2024.

## 2.3 Assessment

Sections 3 and 4 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000 requires devolved public bodies, such as NHS Boards, to adopt a Code of Conduct for members which accords with the Model Code of Conduct promoted by the Standards Commission for Scotland.

The Standards Commission for Scotland having worked with relevant national groups to produce a “Once for Scotland” approach suitable for NHS Boards, it is in the Board’s interests to approve the attached Code for use within NHS Golden Jubilee in discharge of this statutory duty.

The main changes are the inclusion of paragraphs for the following areas:

* My Responsibilities
* Respect and Courtesy
* Confidentiality
* Remuneration
* Houses, Land and Buildings
* Non-Financial Interests
* Participation
* Lobbying and Access
* Investigation of Complaints

### 2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

Ensuring that members of Board Committees have the right skills and experience to scrutinise and challenge will ensure that decisions, which may impact on quality of patient care, are made in line with good governance practice.

### 2.3.2 Workforce

There are no workforce implications.

### 2.3.3 Financial

There is no financial impact.

### 2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management

There are no significant risks associated with the adoption of the Code of Conduct. However, there would be a significant risk to reputational damage and compliance with legislation should NHS Golden Jubilee not adopt annually the Code of Conduct.

### 2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

An impact assessment has not been completed as there is no impact in relation to inequalities or protected characteristics.

### 2.3.6 Other impacts

**Climate Emergency and Sustainability**

No impacts were identified in relation to climate emergency and sustainability when preparing this paper. The Board committee template has been updated to include this section for all future papers.

### Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

This paper has been prepared as an update on corporate governance activity to give assurance on the existing and planned good governance arrangements, therefore, no external consultation is required.

### Route to the Meeting

This paper has not been taken to any groups or committees prior to being presented to NHS GJ Board.

## 2.4 Recommendation

**Decision** – NHS Golden Jubilee Board is asked to approve the Code of Conduct.

## List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

* Appendix No 1, NHS GJ Code of Conduct