

COVID-19 Ethics Forum

Recognising that we will need to make some difficult decisions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is proposed that a COVID-19 ethics forum is established.

The purpose of this forum will be to provide advice to the organisation on complex ethical issues arising out of the COVID-19 situation. It will aim to facilitate discussion between clinical and corporate leaders and other involved parties. These decisions will include, but are not limited to,

- Prioritising service provision
- Balancing individual and wider community health needs and human rights
- Workforce decisions

It is proposed that the forum is convened as required and will meet virtually. If urgent decisions have to be made, these would be made by two members of the forum (or delegated deputies) and then reported to the forum.

It will report into the Performance and Quality Assurance Board sub-committee.

Membership will include:

- Medical Director
- Director of Therapies
- Director of Nursing
- Chief Operating Officer
- Director of Strategy and People
- Chief Executive
- Non-Executive Director

It will be chaired by the Medical Director

The Emergency COVID19 Clinical Leadership & Assurance will report into the Ethics group, to advise and make evidence-based recommendations, based on the outcome of the Quality Impact Assessment.

The aim of the Emergency COVID19 Clinical Leadership & Assurance Group is to provide urgent clinical leadership and governance support and guidance to the oversight of Business Continuity Plans for each of our care pathways, during the pandemic.

The Programme has responsibility for providing senior clinical multi-professional leadership to the operational planning and delivery of Business Continuity Plans in the following six care pathways:

1. Working age adult and older adult mental health in-patient wards
2. Community Health Services
3. Children and Young People
4. Community Mental Health for adults and older adults
5. Forensic and Prisons
6. Adult Learning Disability