

ARHAI Scotland's operating model and strategy

**FY 22/23-
24/25**

Introduction

Antimicrobial Resistance & Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) Scotland is a clinical service providing national expertise for infection, prevention and control (IPC), antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and healthcare associated infection (HAI) for Scotland.

ARHAI Scotland, along with Health Facilities Scotland (HFS), is part of NHS Scotland Assure. NHS Scotland Assure sits within the Procurement, Commissioning and Facilities Strategic Business Unit of NHS National Services Scotland (NSS).

This operating model and strategy positions how ARHAI Scotland operates and strives to improve over the coming years.

Vision

ARHAI Scotland's vision is;

‘ To enable Scotland to have a world leading approach to reducing the burden of infection and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). ’



Mission

ARHAI Scotland's overall mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population by reducing the burden of infection and antimicrobial resistance within Scottish care settings.

We will do this by establishing a robust evidence base for practice and building mechanisms for monitoring key priority areas, connecting with the wider health and social care and public health system and collaborating with key delivery partners including NHS Boards, care providers and other national bodies as commissioned by the Scottish Government.

Purpose

ARHAI Scotland coordinates the national programmes for IPC and AMR, supports local NHS Boards, other national bodies and stakeholders in the implementation and delivery of these key priority programmes to reduce the overall burden of infection and antimicrobial resistance in line with nationally agreed priorities.

Role

ARHAI Scotland provides expert intelligence, support, advice, evidence based guidance, clinical assurance and clinical leadership to local and national government, health and care professionals, the general public and other national bodies with the aim of protecting the people of Scotland from the burden of infection and antimicrobial resistance.

As the national organisation responsible for IPC and AMR, ARHAI Scotland will liaise with other UK countries and international counterparts in the delivery and development of these national priority programmes.

Ways of Working

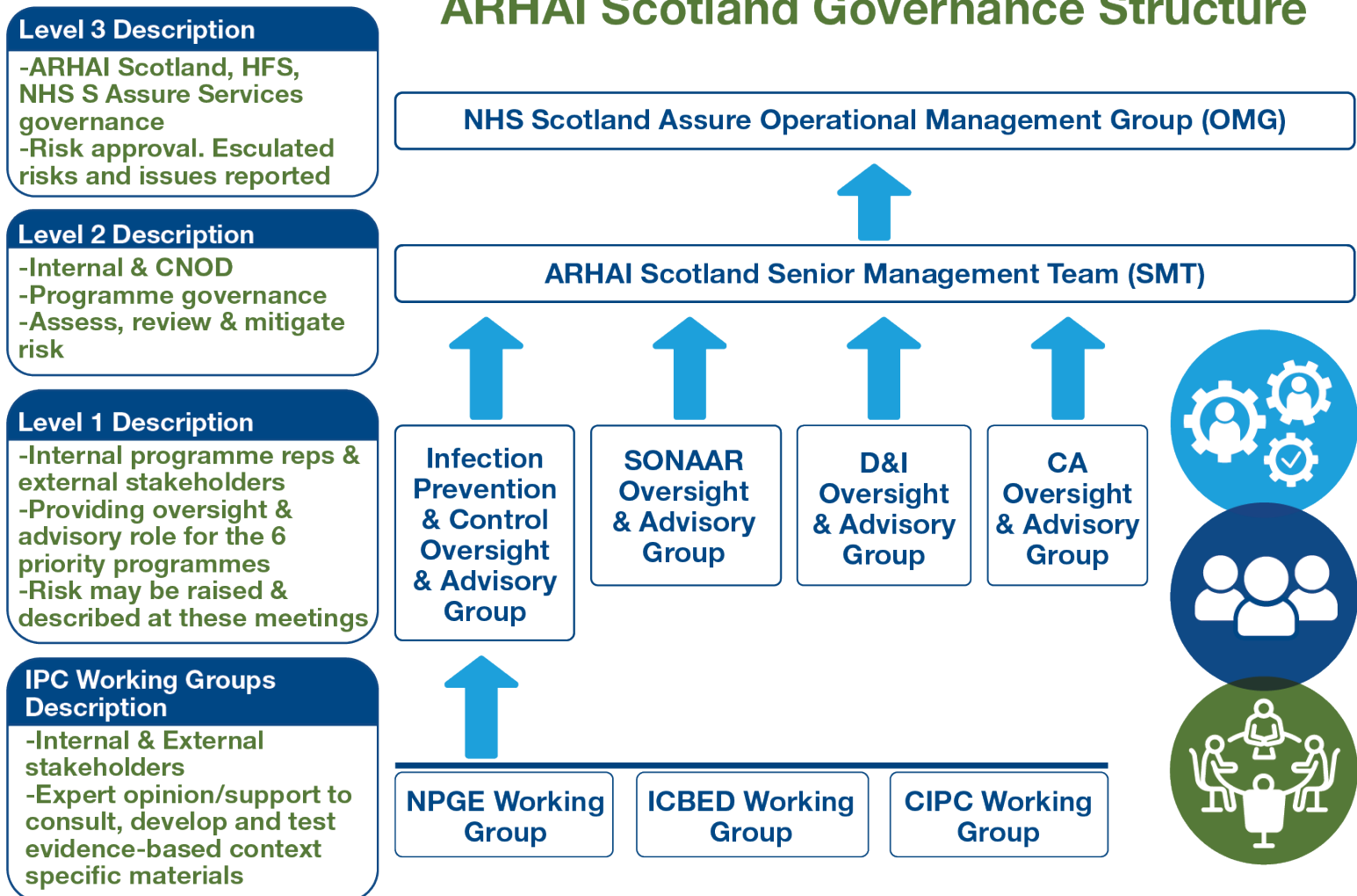
As a National Service, ARHAI Scotland is commissioned via the Scottish Government. We work closely with the Chief Nursing Officer Directorate (CNOD), advising and contributing to policy as required, linking our strategy and work with the needs, priorities and policy of Scottish Government.

ARHAI Scotland consists of a number of clinically led, multidisciplinary teams that incorporate both clinical and non-clinical roles. These teams work together to deliver ARHAI Scotland's functions and six national priority programmes of work that strive to deliver our strategic priorities.



ARHAI Scotland's programmes are governed appropriately through a comprehensive governance structure. This governance structure incorporates risk and issue management and includes multi-stakeholder input at key stages.

ARHAI Scotland Governance Structure



ARHAI Scotland's six priority programmes of work:

- CA** - Clinical Assurance
- CIPC** - Community Infection Prevention and Control
- D&I** - Data and Intelligence
- ICBED** - Infection Control in the Built Environment and Decontamination

- NPGE** - National Policies, Guidance and Evidence
- SONAAR** - Scottish One Health Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance



ARHAI Scotland's Functions



The work of ARHAI Scotland is underpinned by delivering a wide range of functions, working with stakeholders across health and care and beyond to fulfil these functions.

ARHAI Scotland's functions are:

- surveillance and monitoring of infections and antimicrobial resistance to assess their impact on health
- clinical assurance to reduce risk in the built healthcare environment
- co-ordination of national infection prevention and control and antimicrobial programmes
- expert IPC/AMR advice and horizon scanning
- effective preparation and response to HAI outbreaks and incidents
- supporting the ongoing development of a confident, knowledgeable and competent IPC workforce in collaboration with NHS Education for Scotland
- enabling good professional practice
- research and innovation to provide evidence for action
- develop and maintain national evidence-based IPC guidance for Scotland

ARHAI Scotland Strategic Priorities

ARHAI Scotland also looks to continually develop and improve and strives to realise its vision:

“To enable Scotland to have a world leading approach to reducing the burden of infection and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).” by working towards a number of high level, multi-year strategic priorities:

- to provide expert, tailored national leadership to stakeholders in response to outbreaks and incidents, enabling and informing local capability and development of epidemiological intelligence, underpinned by available evidence;
- to drive forward smart and efficient data collection across Scotland, maximising the use of new technologies;
- to contribute to the ARHAI Scotland research agenda by identifying and addressing gaps in practice by leading, producing and commissioning quality HAI, AMR and IPC related research;
- to use new and innovative tools and techniques to present knowledge and information to local stakeholders that will inform action and empower staff to reduce the burden of infection and AMR and optimise the use of antimicrobials;
- to provide a gold-standard single point of resource for evidence based IPC guidance and support for local implementation;
- to support the development of an enhanced workforce that provides national level expertise on ARHAI, providing subject matter expertise to support the Scottish Government IPC workforce development strategy;
- to provide IPC clinical input and guidance ensuring IPC is embedded in all stages in the healthcare build lifecycle, with the aim of reducing infection risks in the healthcare built environment.

These strategic priorities are delivered via our six priority programmes of work and each programme has its own vision, set of long term aims and annual objectives to move towards the overall ARHAI strategic priorities. ARHAI Scotland publishes an **annual report** and this report details the work being done across ARHAI Scotland to deliver these strategic priorities.

