

Ms Catriona Renfrew
Director of Planning and Policy
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
JB Russell House
Gartnavel Royal Hospital Campus
Glasgow G12 0XH

08 December 2016

Dear Catriona

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde – Changes to North East Glasgow Rehabilitation Services

We refer to the proposal by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to reshape the delivery of rehabilitation services for older people in North East Glasgow. This would result in the transfer of inpatient services from Lightburn Hospital to Glasgow Royal Infirmary and Stobhill Hospital, and to local care home and community facilities in North East Glasgow.

It is also proposed that the day hospital would transfer from Lightburn Hospital to form a combined service at Stobhill Hospital and outpatient clinics would move to Glasgow Royal Infirmary or Stobhill Hospital. We are advised that a number of local locations have been scoped for the Parkinson's Support Group meeting and have been offered to patients and the group for consideration.

Lightburn Hospital would close as a consequence of these proposed changes.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde consulted on proposed change to services at Lightburn Hospital in 2010. At the time, the proposal (to transfer inpatient services to Stobhill Hospital) was considered a major service change. The proposal was not approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, who also gave recommendations for moving forward. We understand that the current proposal is different to that consulted on in 2010, but still entails the closure of Lightburn Hospital.

View on status of proposals

On the basis of the information that you have shared with us, we have considered whether this proposed change would be likely to meet the general threshold for 'major change', with reference to the issues identified in the 'Guidance on Identifying Major Health Service Changes'¹. This has included reviewing the proposed change alongside other changes in Scotland that have been identified as 'major' to identify any comparable changes in recent years.

It is our view that the proposals would meet the threshold for major service change on the basis of:

- the current proposal, if approved, would result in the closure of Lightburn Hospital
- when a previous proposal involving the closure of Lightburn Hospital was considered it was deemed major
- a change in accessibility of inpatient services, day hospital and outpatient clinics for patients, carers and visitors

¹ http://www.scottishhealthcouncil.org/about_us/what_we_do/service_change/identify_major_service_change.aspx#.WEgt7dKLSig

- changes to patient pathways for acute rehabilitation care – with some care provided at home or in a community setting
- the level of political and public interest and concern.

Next steps

We acknowledge the engagement activity that has been undertaken over the past three months. If this proposal is deemed major by the Scottish Government, then prior to moving to consultation, we would recommend that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde:

- ensures that any negative outcomes of the Equalities Impact Assessment are addressed and mitigated
- reviews the feedback it has received through its engagement activity and ensures that this informs the development of its consultation materials and approach e.g. demonstrate how shifting the balance of care from the acute to the community setting will be resourced, describe the different pathways dependent on patient need, concerns relating to transport and travel, perceived lack of awareness/ publicity on the proposal, further explanation on reasons for change
- demonstrates joint working with the health and social care partnerships to provide assurance around quality of care and sustainability of proposed new models of care
- provides further clarity and opportunities for local rehabilitation services on the Parkhead hub as this information becomes available
- we note that a formal option appraisal has yet to be completed. If this service change proposal is deemed to be major, guidance requires that the development and appraisal of options is 'consistent with the fundamental approach outlined in HM Treasury guidance – The Green Book.'²

Whilst the points raised represent the view of the Scottish Health Council, the decision on whether a change to services should be considered major rests with the Scottish Government. If the proposals change I would ask that you contact us at the earliest opportunity as it may be necessary to review this position.

Please contact me if you wish to clarify any of the above points.

Yours sincerely



Richard Norris
Director
Scottish Health Council

www.scottishhealthcouncil.org

The Scottish Health Council is part of Healthcare Improvement Scotland

² Paragraph 28 http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2010_04.pdf