

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Community Health & Care Partnership

Committee: 15 December 2010

**Subject: CONSULTATION ON REMOVAL OF DR WALLACE & PARTNERS
BRANCH SURGERY FROM CLYDEBANK HEALTH CENTRE
AND
RELOCATING THEIR PRACTICE SOLELY TO THE PREMISES AT
ERSKINE VIEW IN OLD KIRKPATRICK**

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This paper is intended to inform/update the Committee on the recent consultation which has taken place relating to the Practice's proposal to withdraw from the provision of General Medical Services from their Branch Surgery at Clydebank Health Centre and practice thereafter solely from their premises at Erskine View. The Committee is asked to consider the application for approval.

2. Background

- 2.1** Currently Dr Wallace & Partners have approximately 1,500 patients within 862 households, registered within their surgery at Clydebank Health Centre. It is their proposal to remove their presence from Clydebank Health Centre and welcome those patients to join them in their purpose built new premises at Erskine View, Old Kirkpatrick.

To enable the application to be progressed an depth consultation was required by the various regulations governing the provision of a General Medical Services Contract with the Health Board / CHCP and a General Medical Practice. This regulation requires that there be an in-depth consultation process.

As part of the consultation process a list of interested parties was compiled that included Local Councillors, MP, MSP, General Medical Practices in the Clydebank Health Centre, Public Participation Groups, Clydebank Senior's Forum, Members of the Carer's Centre and the Local Medical Committee.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** In addition to the aforementioned interested parties the Practice contacted all of their patients within the designated households registered to the Branch Surgery within Clydebank Health Centre. Their opinion regarding the proposal was requested as part of the survey mailed to each of the 862 relevant households. A response was received from 305 households (35%). Of this number 216 (71%) responded in a positive manner and 84 (28%) responded in a negative manner.

3.2 Areas of Concern Raised

The main areas of concern raised by those who responded in the negative were around matters associated with travelling from their current location within Clydebank Health Centre, to attending the new location at Erksine View. There were also a few questions around provision of repeat prescriptions through their accustomed local Community Pharmacy network and would they still be able to access their repeat prescriptions via their accustomed Pharmacist. (This last question has been addressed by the practice and after contacting the Pharmacies concerned and assurances have been given that service will not be affected by the proposed move to Erksine View.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** Apart from the imminent retiral of one of the Practice partners and a slight reorganisation of the Practice staff employed by the Practice with the alteration of their duties from the Health Centre to the main surgery in Old Kilpatrick there are no issues.
- 4.2** There are however one or two questions in relation to the cost implications of staff who are employed by the CHCP and who are employed to provide a service at a charge to various Health Centre Practices (known as shared staff) and the need to refresh the costs share analysis of these posts has been highlighted by one of the Practices.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There will be some minor implications around the shared staff and within the Health Centre and the re-apportionment of those staff costs / Health Centre running costs among the remaining practices.

6 Conclusions & Recommendations

- 6.1** Clydebank Health Centre currently has nine General Medical Practices located within the building and the removal of the Branch Surgery will have a minimal effect if any, on the ability of patients to access General Medical Services within the Health Centre. There is currently sufficient excess capacity within the General Medical Practices located in the Health Centre to absorb the full compliment of 1,465 patients in the unlikely event that none of the existing patients wish to travel to the new premises in Erskine View.
- 6.2** Previous experience would indicate that in excess of circa 50% of patients currently registered with the practice at Clydebank Health Centre will migrate with the practice to their new location at Erskine and that those who choose not to follow the practice to its new location will be free to register with one of the 8 practices that remain based within the Health Centre.
- 6.3** In light of the 71% positive responses, from the respondents to the questionnaire to the proposal being accepted, It is recommended that this Committee grant approval for the withdrawal of services by Dr Wallace and Partners from Clydebank Health Centre from Sunday 6th February 2011, commencing practice solely from their existing new premises at Erskine View on Monday 7th February 2011.

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Appendices: Erskine View Consultation Outcome Appendix I
5.11.10
Erskine View Appendix II 15.11.10

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: Ward 4 Kilpatrick
Ward 5 Clydebank Central
Ward 6 Clydebank Waterfront