

THE VALE MONITORING GROUP

MONDAY 28 MARCH, 9.30AM

Pillar Hall, Victoria Halls, Sinclair Street, Helensburgh

DRAFT MINUTE

Present:

Bill Brackenridge, Chair
Eileen Gorie, West Dunbartonshire Mental Health Forum
George Freeman, Argyll & Bute Council
Keith Redpath, West Dunbartonshire CHCP
Alison Wilding, West Dunbartonshire CHCP
Anne Hawkins, Mental Health Partnership
Jane Grant, NHSGGC
David Harrison, Acumen
Harry McCormack, West Dunbartonshire Mental Health Forum
David Bruce, Helensburgh & Lomond Patients Group
Vivien Dance, Argyll & Bute Council
Derek Leslie, Argyll & Bute CHP
Gordon Robertson, NHSGGC
Al Reay, Argyll & Bute Council
Mairi Harvey, Argyll & Bute PPF
Mike Hall, Argyll & Bute CHP
Lily Kennedy, West Dunbartonshire PPF
Anne Ferguson, West Dunbartonshire PPF
Jackie Baillie

In Attendance:

Logan Taylor, Independent Media Adviser
Lorna Fitzpatrick, Minute
Garry Fraser, Scottish Ambulance Service
Grant Archibald, NHSGGC

Apologies:

Stephen Whiston, Argyll & Bute CHP
Anne Helstrip, Argyll & Bute CHP
Ally McLaws, NHSGGC
Jackie Pollock, United Campaigns Group
David McBride, West Dunbartonshire Council

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman offered a warm welcome to Eileen Gorie who will replace Harry McCormack on the Monitoring Group.

2. Apologies

Noted above.

3. Minute of January 2011 Meeting

The Minute will be amended to reflect the fact the George Freeman attended the last meeting of the Monitoring Group.

The Minute will be amended on page 6 to reflect the fact that four Scottish Ambulance Service staff will go to Helensburgh.

Otherwise, the Minute was accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

A request was made for an update to the Capital Plan and it was reported that this was not yet finalised and dialogue with the Scottish Government continues. All schemes in Greater Glasgow and Clyde are under review. A further update will be reported to this group in once the final plan has been produced.

Garry Fraser confirmed that completion of the ambulance station is on target for April.

Gordon Robertson confirmed that the postal drop had been completely successful. He understood from The Post Office that each and every address in "The Vale Postcode Area" had received a copy of the document. The Chairman, therefore, concluded that Jackie Pollock's report at the last meeting that she had not received a copy must have been an individual failing rather than an indication of a general failing on delivery.

5. Feedback from Membership

Members reported on how the papers from this group had been fed back to individual's own structures. Two main issues were around the Alexandria Health and Care Centre and the Crisis Service for Helensburgh and the Lochside. Both these points are picked up elsewhere on the agenda.

At this point Harry McCormack confirmed that Eileen Gorie would be his permanent replacement on the Monitoring Group. The Chairman thanked Harry for his contribution to the work of the group.

6. Acute Services Update

Jane Grant introduced her paper which set out a summary of the recommendations agreed by the Cabinet Secretary as a framework by which this group can review the implementation of the Vision and related activity.

After discussion around the medical assessment unit, Grant Archibald confirmed that he meets regularly with clinicians to review the operation of this new model which was introduced at the end of December.

There was some detailed discussion around renal, haematology and dental activity. Jane Grant advised that work continues on postcode review to try and identify if there are other suitable patients who could be treated at the Vale.

In February, 25 clinics were cancelled. Some were planned cancellations which were cancelled well in advance; however there were some unplanned cancellations due to staff sickness. This is not an area where the Board is complacent.

Jane Grant will provide a more detailed review for the next meeting in relation to those specialties which are demonstrating less patient activity. She emphasised the fact that the service model has not changed.

Obstetrics numbers continue to fall despite ongoing promotion of the service.

In response to a question from Jackie Baillie around laboratory provision, Jane Grant confirmed the laboratory service was a separate entity from the Clinical Haematology service and she indicated that no changes to the service delivery of laboratory specimens were currently planned and that specimens will continue to be processed at the Vale of Leven.

There is, however, a separate laboratory review being carried out across Greater Glasgow and Clyde and all labs are being reviewed but no detailed work has yet been concluded..

After discussion Jane Grant confirmed that an appropriate laboratory service would be available at the Vale and that patients who require a lab result immediately will be provided with that service.

In response to a question from Jackie Baillie about discussions which had taken place with Argyll & Bute CHP and NHS Highland concerning access to the Golden Jubilee Hospital, Derek Leslie confirmed that opportunities are being explored to assist colleagues and provide an improved service. The discussions have reached no conclusion.

Argyll and Bute has very little acute provision and most treatment is carried out in GGC under service level agreements. This is by far the biggest SLA anywhere in the country and covers much more routine services than the majority of SLAs.

Jane Grant advised that dialogue continues around a number of existing SLAs and how we might improve services for patients, including aiming for shortened waiting times.

7. Mental Health Services

Anne Hawkins presented her report and described the admissions pattern within adult mental health services.

Key Points from the most recent three month period:

- Admissions have reduced from 13 to 11 per month
- Occupied beds have reduced from 13.7 to 12.1 per month

- Lengths of stay have reduced from 31 days to 26 days
- Boarded admissions have reduced from two admissions per month to one admission per month
- Boarded bed use has risen marginally from 0.7 beds per month to 0.8 beds per month
- Readmissions have reduced

Comprehensive feedback from patients and carers continues to prove difficult to obtain.

The crisis service provided to residents of Helensburgh and the Lochside is available until 8.00pm and thereafter crisis services are accessed via NHS24. A review of the make up of crisis services for the whole of Argyll & Bute is underway with the emphasis on providing an equitable service to all residents. Derek Leslie will produce a paper for the next meeting of this group.

8. Communications

Gordon Robertson described the ongoing programme around promoting the CMU and other activity being undertaken by communications.

9. Alexandria Health & Care Centre

An additional capital allocation has been made for the health and care centre for 2011/12. The detailed planning application should be submitted to the Council by the end of April. Keith Redpath described the consultation processes which had already taken place with both service users and staff.

On the dental provision, he confirmed that the final plans take into account the most up to date position. The original delay to the Outline Business Case had been around the retention of a community dental chair in Dumbarton and that issue is resolved.

Recent focus has been on ensuring that the new centre is a building fit for the future. The total cost is in the region of £20m. Keith Redpath will bring an update paper which will include details of oral health provision to the next meeting of this group.

10. Ambulance Service & Transport Update

Garry Fraser tabled his paper "SAS A&E Resource Requirement Staffing". The paper sets out to determine the resource requirements for each station. The SAS calculated that they need an additional six wte staff between Helensburgh and the Vale to meet the needs of the service changes and to ensure there is no adverse impact on the service's ability to maintain 999 response cover in the area and maintain a clinically safe ambulance response. The paper also includes staff rosters showing the differences in shift patterns.

The paper included tables showing response times for each of the stations. These demonstrate the volume of service at each station and prove there is no detriment to the emergency service.

George Freeman asked about performance by post code as previously these showed a marked difference for postcode G84 0.

Jackie Baillie asked about cancelled patient transport and she and Garry will discuss outside this forum.

Garry Fraser confirmed that the rapid response vehicle does not show up on the tables as these hours were used to staff a double person ambulance

11. AOCB

There was no other competent business.

12. DONM

The next meeting is on 13 June 2011 in Dumbarton.