

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Social Work Services

Council: 28 February 2007

Subject: Acute Hospital Services – Royal Alexandria Hospital and Inverclyde Hospital Consultation Document December 2006

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report informs Members of the response (Appendix 1) submitted to NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, in respect of the Consultation Document (Appendix 2) relating to Acute Services in the Royal Alexandria and Inverclyde Hospitals.
- 1.2** The consultation period ran from 8th December 2006 to 2nd February 2007, leaving no scope for the paper to be presented formally to Council for comments and input.

2. Background

- 2.1** The consultation relates to Acute Health Services located in the Paisley Royal Alexandria Hospital (RAH) and the Inverclyde Royal Hospital (IRH), and is of interest to West Dunbartonshire Council because Dumbarton and Alexandria residents often have to use acute services at the RAH because Glasgow hospitals do not have capacity to care for that population, and some local acute services (formerly located at the Vale of Leven Hospital) have been relocated to the RAH.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The document proposed a retention of full emergency services at both Inverclyde Royal Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital. This appears to be based on current hospital usage, which for the RAH includes the populations of Dumbarton, Alexandria and Helensburgh.
- 3.2** The document makes limited reference to the Vale of Leven Hospital and to NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde's commitment to develop a hospital access "corridor" north of the Clyde, which would serve the future needs of the people of Dumbarton, Alexandria and Helensburgh.

- 3.3** The paper highlights some of the issues around a loss of confidence in the future of Inverclyde Hospital and aims to address them by making a firm commitment to the hospital's future. The Vale of Leven Hospital has faced similar difficulties, which remain outstanding.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** The consultation window did not allow sufficient time for a formal risk analysis to be undertaken. However, preliminary analysis suggests that the proposed commitment to retain full services at the RAH and IRH relies upon the continued transference of patients from West Dunbartonshire to Paisley. This is counter to the stated wishes of that population. It should also be noted that the requirement to travel from Dumbarton, Alexandria and Helensburgh to the RAH increases the risk of further depletion of services at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The opportunity to contribute to the consultation is to be welcomed. However, West Dunbartonshire Council needs clarity from NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde as to what the proposed strategy means for the population of Dumbarton and Alexandria, and for the future of the Vale of Leven Hospital.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** Members are invited to note the response submitted to NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, and comment to the Director of Social Work Services.
- 8.2** Members are invited to request a further report informing of the NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde response to the consultation contribution.

- 8.3** Members are asked to request that NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde defer a final decision on the partial Acute Services review, in favour of the completion of a review of Acute Services in their entirety, across the whole NHS system.

William W Clark
Director of Social Work Services

Person to Contact: William W Clark, Director of Social Work Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, Telephone 01389 737599; email bill.clark@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: Response to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde dated 1 February 2007.

Clinical Strategy – South Clyde Acute Services

Background Papers: Acute Hospital Services: Royal Alexandra Hospital and Inverclyde Hospital, December 2006 Consultation Document

Wards Affected: All council Wards.