



**THE VALE MONITORING GROUP
FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2011, 9.30AM
MEETING ROOM 3, COUNCIL OFFICES, GARSHAKE ROAD,
DUMBARTON**

DRAFT MINUTE

Present:

Bill Brackenridge, Chairman
Anne Hawkins, NHSGGC
Jane Grant, NHSGGC
Grant Archibald, NHSGGC
Al Reay, Argyll & Bute Council
Vivien Dance, Argyll & Bute Council
Wendy Quinn, Scottish Ambulance Service
Keith Redpath, West Dunbartonshire CHCP
Gordon Robertson, NHSGGC
Derek Leslie, Argyll & Bute CHP
Logan Taylor, Independent Media Adviser

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. He intimated that Jackie Baillie, George Black, David Bruce, George Freeman, Eileen Gorie, David Harrison, Mairi Harvey, David McBride, Jackie Pollock, Anne Fergusson and Lily Kennedy had resigned from the Group. A copy of the resignation letter is appended to this Minute.

The Chairman expressed regret that this action had been taken but recorded thanks for the valuable contribution made by the lay members since the inception of the Monitoring Group. He also indicated that whether the organisations involved wish to nominate an alternative representative for the group is entirely a matter for them. He assured the Group that if the organisation, whose representatives had resigned from the Group, wished to appoint replacements, and these organisations followed due process, the new nominees would be more than welcome.

The Chairman also intimated that Viv Smith, in her new capacity of Locality Manager for Cowal, Bute, Helensburgh and Lomond would replace Anne Helstrip on the Group following Anne's retirement.

The two lay members present at the group confirmed that it was not currently their intention to resign as they both felt there was an important job to be done on the Group to ensure services are provided at the Vale and to ensure that mental health community services are provided in the area. They were appointed by the full Council of Argyll & Bute and whether or not members should resign should be a full council decision. Consideration will be given over the coming weeks as to whether a motion should be put to council re membership of the monitoring group.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Kevin Fellows, Garry Fraser and Michael Hall.

3. Minute of July 2011 Meeting

The Minute was accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

It was confirmed that the outcome of the review of laboratory services is expected to be available for the November meeting of the monitoring group.

5. Feedback from Membership

Members reported that papers from the monitoring group continue to be routinely submitted to committees and senior management team meetings for consideration and information.

6. Acute Services Update

Jane Grant introduced the acute services update paper which is available on the monitoring group website.

The reduction in gynaecology activity is being investigated and the information around inpatient activity will be recalibrated to show where the intention was to have reduced activity.

The postcode analysis shows an overall increase and this will be expanded on for the next meeting.

In response to a question about how actual activity compares with what is in the Vale Vision, Jane Grant confirmed that actual activity is outperforming what is described in the Vision. More detail on this will be included in the next paper.

There has been no change in the haematology service to account for reduced numbers although the review is ongoing.

7. Mental Health

Anne Hawkins introduced the draft paper that she is submitting to the NHS Board on 18 October for consideration. No formal comments have yet been received from lay members.

The purpose of the mental health monitoring framework is to demonstrate that inpatient activity and community services are in line with the Clyde Mental Health Strategy which set out the prediction that 12 beds or less would be required for the Vale catchment area.

Key points from the paper include:

- Admissions increased from 7 to 12 per month
- Occupied beds increased from 7 to 11 per month
- Lengths of stay increased from 30 to 31 days
- Boarded admissions have gone from 0.3 to 1.0 admissions per month
- Boarded bed use has marginally reduced
- Readmissions have increased from 1.7 to 2 per month

The intention is to submit the Board Paper and to make a submission to the Cabinet Secretary to have the beds moved from Christie Ward to Gartnavel on a permanent basis.

There was a discussion around the recent increase in admissions and whether this represented a trend rather than a blip. Mental health issues are raised by factors such as unemployment, economic recession and a downturn in the socio economic climate. Vivien Dance expressed the view that it would be hasty at this stage to make a decision to shift the beds permanently as the next few months could see a continued increased trend.

Concern was also expressed about patients being boarded outwith the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area.

Derek Leslie advised that services are being redesigned in Argyll and Bute with the aim of establishing an equitable service with West

Dumbarton. Currently, crisis services are accessed via GPs out of hours. There is full engagement with Acumen around the design and there will be a new Gateway service to provide services to a remote and rural challenging area.

Anne Hawkins advised that there was a close review on any possible increase in suicides due to depression caused by unemployment and poverty and that there is a view that August, September and October are historically busier months and she is reviewing whether or not that is the case.

Boarding can be challenging, particularly when there is an influx of boarders and it is very easy to get out of balance. A piece of work is underway to re-establish balance. The Psychiatric Advisory Committee meets regularly with Anne Hawkins and they have not expressed any concern re boarders, nor has concern been expressed by the staff partnership forum.

Vivien Dance suggested that the only sensible decision to take now is for the Cabinet Secretary to extend the length of monitoring period.

Anne Hawkins agreed to include this view at Section 6.3 of the board paper and will circulate suggested wording to members and advised that lay members should feel free to write to the Board separately about this.

8. Communications.

There was discussion around the need to improve public perception and the need to restore confidence in the Vale hospital. Anecdotally there are fantastically positive views and work is underway to improve the inpatient survey. The HAI report was very positive and consideration needs to be given on how best to publicise good news.

9. Alexandria Health and Care Centre

Keith Redpath provided a verbal update to members. Highlights are:

- Planning Permission has been granted subject to conditions.
- Target price has been agreed within budget.
- Gateway 3 Review is complete with feedback due today.
- Final Business Case is being drafted.
- Completion scheduled for May 2013.

10. Scottish Ambulance Service and Transport

Staff moved in to the new station in Helensburgh on 4 July 2011. Responses remain just under target of 75% and this figure is constantly monitored with reports produced daily. There are 12 rostered staff and three relief staff to cover absences.

Activity compared to last year has fallen by 1.4% and this is currently under review.

News of the new station was welcomed by the group.

11. AOCB

There was no other competent business.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 28 November 2011, Victoria Halls, Helensburgh.