

**VALE OF LEVEN MONITORING GROUP
SPECIAL MEETING
7.30PM 11 OCTOBER 2010
HARTFIELD BOARDROOM, DUMBARTON**

DRAFT MINUTE

Present: Keith Redpath (Chair), West Dunbartonshire CHCP
Anne Hawkins, NHSGGC Mental Health Partnership
Linda Watt, NHSGGC Mental Health Partnership
Eileen Gorie, representing WD Mental Health Forum
David Harrison, Acumen
George Freeman, Argyll & Bute Council
Ronnie McCall, West Dunbartonshire Council
David Bruce, Helensburgh & Lomond Patient Group
David McBride, West Dunbartonshire Council
Lily Kennedy, West Dunbartonshire PPF
Jackie Baillie, The Scottish Parliament
George Black, West Dunbartonshire Council

In Ally, McLaws, NHSGGC
Attendance: Logan Taylor, Independent Media Adviser
Lorna Fitzpatrick, Minute

In the absence of the Chairman, Keith welcomed members to this special meeting of the Monitoring Group at which it is planned to discuss the draft board paper which Anne Hawkins has prepared for the next meeting of the NHS Board.

Rather than ask Anne to present the paper, Keith proposed having a discussion to decide how the group wants to contribute to the paper as described in section 3.13.2 which proposes that the monitoring group append their views to the Board Paper as Appendix 6.

Jackie Baillie asked if, before the paper was reviewed, Anne would be willing to provide feedback from the Board Seminar.

Anne reported that she presented the slides which were previously circulated to all members of the Monitoring Group and it was helpful to have the motion agreed at the meeting on 1 October 2010

included in the presentation to draw to the Board's attention the strength of the feelings of the Monitoring Group. Anne described discussions around the challenges associated with the capital plan and the assumption that there will be slippage in the capital plan both this year and next. The Board has been asked to review all schemes that have not already been formally legally committed with a view to holding these pending the outcome of the spending review. It is anticipated that the capital allocation for next year will be reduced and there may be a further reduction in year. There was no one at the meeting who could support the view that we invest capital at this time to enable beds be taken back to the Vale.

Jackie Baillie pointed out that this is slightly different from other capital schemes but accepted that the financial situation is very tight for both revenue and capital. There is potential for the revenue savings from Christie to be utilised.

Ronnie McColl pointed out that at 3.13.4 Option 1 was in fact North wing Reinstatement and not the minimum option. The paper will be amended. Anne was able to confirm that Option 1 would provide the full 12 adult beds in addition to the six elderly beds in Katrine.

Ronnie McColl asked if the north wing was reinstated and, come June next year it was decided that it wasn't sustainable as a mental health ward, could it be used as anything else. Anne and Keith advised that it was the old nurses' accommodation and was not up to standard for alternative usage.

David Bruce asked if there was any support at the Seminar for the idea in principle being supported without reference to money. Anne advised that the board members were very clear about the Cabinet Secretary's decisions and the proposals which were endorsed that the beds would be accommodated at Gartnavel. They saw the relocation to Gartnavel as being in line with the mental health strategy.

Vivien Dance asked if the Board members listening to the presentation were convinced that they had no money to respond positively to the motion from this group.

Anne reported that there was concern that the fire has placed us in this position as it has led to anxiety, conflict and led the Board to being unable to deliver in the way originally intended.

In response to a question about whether public consultation and the will of the people were discussed, Anne responded that the Board fully understands the views of the Monitoring Group and

understands the strength of feeling about the ward and its symbolism.

Vivien is concerned that the Board will take the decision based primarily on cost issues rather than locality and the preference of patients, carers and the wider public.

George Black was concerned that in view of the fact that officers were less than supportive of the motion put forward by this group that the issue was pursued with less vigour than the group would have wanted. He felt that in view of the earlier statement on cabinet responsibility, Anne should have been representing the monitoring group at that seminar.

Anne confirmed that she had in fact been very clear about the strength of feeling of the group.

Keith stated that his clear recollection is that at the previous meeting, when we got into the debate about cabinet responsibility it was not fully resolved and that is an issue which will be discussed with the Chairman of the Monitoring Group on his return from holiday.

Keith advised that there was no debate over the wording of the motion. There was a clear view expressed by the lay members of the group which Anne was asked to relay as the views of the monitoring group which she did – including the motion verbatim in the slides. It is unfair to accuse Anne of not representing the views of this group to the Board.

Vivien is concerned that what was a motion unanimously agreed by every lay person in the room – that was a clear decision of the monitoring group and is now being reported as a strength of feeling. Vivien asked if anyone could advise the group what the group is monitoring from now on.

Ronnie advised that the draft board paper contained the motion in full at para 3.11.3 and that there may well be an amendment put forward to the Board. From the description of the Board Seminar Board members will have a clear vision on what they are going to vote on at the board meeting on 26 October.

David Bruce expressed disappointment as he expected the Chair to report that a decision had been taken by the Monitoring Group rather than just a motion agreed. It is clear that no matter what is said, the decision is effectively already made. There was a view

expressed by all lay members present that lay members are here to tick a box and are having no impact on the situation.

Jackie Baillie acknowledged that the motion puts officers in a very difficult position. There should be consideration given as to how this group is established in the future. The fact is that the Cabinet Secretary didn't think it was in the interests of patients for the Christie Ward to be reinstated and that is when the end game became known.

Lily Kennedy stated that she thought that we were here to make a difference and when the motion was taken she thought some progress had been made. She advised that it was important that everything is done democratically.

Vivien asked about democracy in the Health Board and asked if the Board did not recognise that they ought to take expert advice before they take decisions. She stated that no one in Scotland has given as much emphasis and study as this group has over the last couple of months to the situation at the Vale of Leven hospital. She thought that the ultimate decision makers appear to be heading towards totally ignoring the views of the monitoring group.

Anne Hawkins advised that she and her clinical colleagues believe that the strategic vision is not misguided. The evidence has been presented and at the end of the monitoring period if bed numbers are reduced to 12, then a safe local service cannot be provided and there is no intention to put anybody at risk.

David Bruce advised that the way in which the numbers were calculated suggested that this was not purely a clinical decision.

After further discussion on the report it was stated that the group were being asked to make a contribution to the board paper rather than change the content of the officer's report.

A ten minute recess was proposed and accepted.

On reconvening, Jackie Baillie expressed the view that lay members want a letter from the Vale Monitoring Group sent to every member of the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing in which the position of the Monitoring Group is to reject the proposal in the board paper and to record in full the motion stated at the meeting on 1 October 2010:

"Considering the role of the group to ensure the implementation of the Vision for the Vale, and specifically for

the benefit of patients and their families, the Vale of Leven Monitoring Group recommends the reinstatement of the Christie Ward or its equivalent at the Vale of Leven with funding allocated and work commencing in the current financial year."

It was agreed that a draft should be prepared and circulated with comments invited and to be received before Thursday 14 October. After discussion on whether the letter should be from all members of the Monitoring Group it was agreed that further guidance would be sought from the Chairman.

9.00pm – Meeting Closed.