

**MINUTES of MEETING of the SOCIAL AFFAIRS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE GROUP held
in the MEMBERS ROOM, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on TUESDAY, 6 JANUARY 2009**

Present: Councillor Vivien Dance (Chair)

Councillor Mary Jean Devon	Councillor Roderick McCuish
Councillor Anne Horn	Councillor Neil Mackay
Councillor David Kinniburgh	Councillor James McQueen

Attending: Alison Younger, Area Corporate Services Manager
Jim Robb, Head of Adult Care
Brian Barker, Policy and Strategy Manager

Apologies: Councillor John McAlpine Douglas Mackie, Union Rep

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

*** 2. A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL: PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION PLAN**

At a special meeting on 10 October 2008 the Social Affairs PPG made recommendations to the Executive in response to the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde pre engagement document "Developing a Vision" for the Vale of Leven Hospital. Following this pre engagement consultation the Health Board have now launched a further consultation paper "Vision for the Vale of Leven Hospital" which was before the PPG for consideration. A draft response to this consultation document prepared by Community Services Departmental Management Team was also before the PPG for consideration and comment.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the draft response prepared by the Community Services Departmental Management Team;
2. To agree that the views of the PPG on the future of the Vale of Leven Hospital have not changed since their meeting on 10 October 2008;
3. To agree to delegate to the Director of Corporate Services, or his nominated Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the PPG, to expand on the previous statement made by the PPG taking into account the concerns expressed by the PPG about the lack of detail within the consultation document and that this be circulated to the PPG for sign off prior to recommending to the Executive that this be the Council's response to the consultation document, as outlined in Appendix A of this Minute.

(Reference: Report by Director of Community Services dated 17 December 2008;

Community Services DMT draft response to the Consultation Document and consultation document "Vision for the Vale of Leven Hospital" dated October 2008 – January 2009)

3. CORPORATE PLAN 2009 - 2012 AND BEYOND

The PPG considered the consultation draft of the Corporate Plan for 2009 – 2012 and Beyond which was published on the Council's website in November 2008.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the consultation draft and that a number of amendments have been made since its publication; and
2. To note Councillor Mackay's concern that, due to budget constraints, consolidation and extension of the Argyll brand from Food from Argyll to include wider sector involvement, including tourism and culture has been removed from the Plan.

(Reference: Consultation Draft of the Corporate Plan 2009 – 2012 and Beyond dated November 2008, submitted)

Appendix A

Argyll and Bute Council

Social Affairs Policy and Performance Group – 6 January 2009

Recommendations to the Executive in response to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Consultation document “Vision for the Vale of Leven Hospital”.

The PPG welcomes the opportunity to comment on the consultation. However the PPG has significant concerns that the Consultation document as produced does not, in many areas, provide sufficient detail to allow a fully considered response to be given to the specific proposals.

The Council in its response to the pre consultation document made the following requests:

- 1) That NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde ensures that the final consultation paper details that all options to sustain and enhance unscheduled and scheduled services have been fully explored and these options are presented to the public for comment.
- 2) That NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde includes specific information in the consultation document in respect of bed numbers, ward structures and medical staffing and details the clear and precise model of care that the Vale will deliver.
- 3) That NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde revisits the conclusion that the Royal Alexandria is the hospital of choice for residents north of the river Clyde.
- 4) That NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde addresses public concerns with regards to patient and carer transport and provides detailed information on the capacity of the Scottish Ambulance Service to support any redesign of services.

The PPG in considering the Consultation document as issued on 31st October 2008 has concluded that none of the above requests have been adequately met. In addition to this the PPG has identified concerns regarding the lack of detail provided within the document in relation to the following areas:

- a) Mental Health Services – this contentious issue is explored in no real depth and no information is supplied regarding the recent options appraisal process which identified the Vale of Leven as the preferred choice for the local community with regard to adult acute mental health services
- b) Community Maternity Unit – no evidence has yet been seen of the promotion of the unit and the document offers no detail on the strategy to deal with this. The proposed model of care does not recognise the impact on patients from Argyll and the islands whose needs will only be met by increased journey time to another hospital.
- c) Interdependency of services - how the long term sustainability of individual services will impact on the future of the hospital as a whole
- d) Lack of specification regarding commitment to capital investment

This lack of detail makes a considered response difficult to provide as only limited assessment can be given as to whether the proposed services and care models meet the local community needs and aspirations for their hospital of choice. Whilst the document provides some positive assessments, for example the projected higher level of patient episodes under the newly proposed clinical care model, there is little in the document to substantiate these and evidence that the proposed design is based on rigorous assessment of need.

The PPG would recommend to the Executive that in light of the limited detail available within the Consultation document that the Council's response should:

- 1) Welcome the progress made to deliver a range of services locally at the Vale of Leven Hospital and wish to see development of this model which retains and enhances clinically safe and effective local healthcare provision
- 2) Note its concerns regarding the lack of detail within the Consultation document as outlined above
- 3) Reinforce its earlier position as agreed on 16 October 2008 that the Council:
 - i) Supports the increase in scheduled care services planned for the hospital and encourages further work to investigate the provision of additional services.
 - ii) Supports the retention of the maternity unit for a further three years and the commitment to promote its excellent services whilst recognising that it will be challenging to build public confidence in the Community Midwifery Unit to ensure its viability and secure its future from 2011 onwards.
 - iii) Supports the commitment to improve elderly care but highlights concerns regarding the current inappropriate facilities and lack of detail on the capital investment required to underpin essential improvements to the estate.
 - iv) Supports the development of community based mental health services and provision of more appropriate models of care. Supports the retention of the Christie ward (acute inpatient beds) and rejects the transfer of these beds to Gartnavel in line with the outcome of the Option Appraisal process.
 - v) Supports the retention of anaesthetics and a consultant led service at the Vale of Leven Hospital to sustain unscheduled medical care in line with public expectations and needs.