

STRATHchat

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NHS Highland's major service change project in Badenoch & Strathspey

Latest plans for redesign announced

IN February 2015, Shona Robison, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, approved NHS Highland's proposals for the modernisation of services in Badenoch and Strathspey.

The redesign will include the development of community and adult social care services as well as the construction of a new community hospital and resource centre in Aviemore.

Aviemore Health Centre will be relo-

cated to the new facility but the other health centres will remain at their existing locations.

The redesign will also mean the eventual closure of the Ian Charles Hospital in Grantown-on-Spey and the St Vincent's Hospital in Kingussie once the new arrangements are in place.

Further updates on all aspects of the work to redesign health and social care services are set out in this newsletter.

New model of service

THE details of the proposed new model of service and workforce plan for Badenoch and Strathspey are being finalised.

They will be considered by the project board in July.

The following specific areas are currently under consideration:

Community hospital and resource centre in Aviemore

An external academic and independent review of demographic projections and how they relate to health needs is now under way.

This builds on internal projections and will provide greater information on

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New model of service proposals

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future requirements for both in-hospital and community services in the Badenoch and Strathspey area.

The accommodation schedule is also being completed for the new hospital and work is ongoing on options for hotel services including catering.

Actions have been ongoing for some time to procure a site in Aviemore for the proposed new facility.

Health centres

Both the Grantown and Kingussie health centres will need to be upgraded. The next steps are being developed as part of the overall redesign.

In Grantown, the plans include improving the entrance to the health centre.

This will require Scottish Government funding and bids are currently being prepared.

Care homes

Work is already under way on changes to both NHS Highland managed care homes in the area: Grant House in Grantown-on Spey and the Wade Centre in Kingussie. This is to allow them to provide more flexible use, including emergency respite, palliative and end-of-life care.

Care at home

Significant steps to transform the delivery of care-at-home services is happening across all parts of Highland, including in Badenoch and Strathspey. This will see more care at home provision being commissioned through independent providers and will support greater independence through an approach called enablement. This will necessitate the appointment of more occupational therapists, which is already happening.

NHS Highland is also progressing work with partners to de-



An artist's impression of the new Aviemore facility

velop a care academy which will support staff recruitment and training.

Older adult mental health services: in-patient care

The seven older adult specialist mental health beds currently provided at St Vincent's Hospital in Kingussie will transfer to the acute mental health specialist unit at New Craigs Psychiatric Hospital in Inverness.

This is planned to occur in advance of the new hospital being opened in Aviemore.

The beds in St Vincent's are not exclusively for the use of people living in Badenoch and Strathspey.

Audits have shown that around half of the patients in these beds do not live locally and overall the transfer to Inverness will improve access for more people.

In addition, under the current arrangements visiting consultant psychiatrists provide a weekly service.

Once the new arrangements are in place, there will be improved access to on-site psychiatrists, with 24 hours a day, seven days a week availability at New Craigs.

Patients will get a special assessment and initial treatment but will generally be supported to return to their local community quickly.

Community mental health services

There will also be investment in community mental health and community care services in the local area.

This is to ensure that there is extra capacity to manage patients with increased complexity and avoid admission to hospital where possible. It will also generally help to improve access to mental health services.

Providing choice for end-of-life care

A local multi-agency group has been set up to look at enhancing end-of-life care to improve choice for patients about where they wish to die.

Transport and access

The transport assessment carried out by Aberdeen University and commissioned by the Badenoch and Strathspey Transport Company has been ratified by the transport and access sub-group.



Community Act considered in redesign plans

THE Community Empowerment Act 2015 has been considered as part of the B&S redesign proposals.

The Act has 12 parts and covers a wide range of issues. Most of the Act is not yet in force as the Scottish Government is in the process of consultation on some of the draft regulations.

Two key elements of the Act are:

Participation requests

A new way for communities to enter into dialogue with public bodies on their own terms. Community bodies might use the act to discuss with service providers how they could better meet the needs of users, to offer volunteers to support a service, or even propose to take-over delivery of the service themselves.

If a community body identifies an issue, need or opportunity where it believes it could help to improve outcomes, it can then make a request to a public body to take part in an outcome improvement process.

Requests must be agreed unless there are reasonable grounds for refusal. Public bodies

will need to have processes in place to assess requests, determine if a group meets the requirements of the act, and to implement the necessary outcome improvement process.

Notably, these participation requests are to supplement and not replace consultation and engagement processes that public bodies are already legally required to undertake.

Asset transfer requests

A process to allow a community organisation to apply to buy, lease, manage or use publicly-owned buildings or land. On receipt of a request, the public authority must assess the request's economic, social and environmental benefits and whether it contributes to reducing inequalities.

All community bodies making an asset transfer request must have a constitution. If a community body wishes to buy rather than lease, manage or use an asset, it must meet additional requirements.

Requests must be granted unless the public authority has reasonable grounds to refuse. The public body must have processes in place to handle such requests.

Research planned



DR ELLEN STEWART, a researcher from Edinburgh University, is looking at a number of case studies across Scotland involving the redesign of health services, including any areas where there are proposals to close hospitals.

Her research questions will include:

- What types of knowledge and evidence inform decisions to propose hospital closures in the NHS in Scotland?
- What information do members of the public draw on when responding to a proposed hospital closure?
- How does the NHS involve the public in decisions?

Anyone interested in finding out more or participating in the research should contact Ellen:

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Recent community and staff updates

Key dates

31st May: Update to board of NHS Highland

6th July: Project board

6th September: Highland Council area committee

19th September: Transport and Access Group

5th October: Project board

29th November: Update to board of NHS Highland

REPRESENTATIVES from NHS Highland attended the Granttown-on-Spey and Vicinity Community Council on Tuesday 24th May.

Following a brief presentation there was a series of question and answers.

The questions and discussion focused on: the need for flexible use beds in care homes; increased capacity for care at home; clarification that location of health centres won't be changing and that there will be no change to Scottish Ambulance Service's arrangements in Granttown; and the impact and opportunities relating to the Community Empowerment Act (see *previous page*).

The questions and responses will be published on the Granttown-

on-Spey & Vicinity Community Council and NHS Highland websites.

At the meeting it was also agreed to hold some follow-up sessions later in the year specifically on how NHS Highland is delivering changes to care-at-home service to increase capacity and improve quality.

NHS Highland will be in contact with all community councils in the area in due course to offer to meet and provide an update on the redesign.

There will also be an update to the Highland Council Area Committee.

The project board meets quarterly and includes three public members: Alex Murray (Granttown-on-Spey), Mairi Palmer (Newtonmore) and Councillor Jaci Douglas.

Who's who on NHS Highland project team



Georgia Haire,
project director



Rhiannon Pitt,
area manager



Dr Boyd Peters,
clinical lead

How to find out more...

FOR further updates on the progress of the redesign work, there is a dedicated section on the NHS Highland website: <http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/News/PublicConsultation/BadenochStrathspey/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

Alternatively, contact any of the following:

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