

A PICTURE OF HEALTH

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE NOTE ON CANCER SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to update the Board with the current proposals in relation to the development of a cancer service and associated services for Lanarkshire.

2. CANCER CENTRE

Cancer is an important cause of ill health and premature death within NHS Lanarkshire and is rising in incidence. As well as providing details of the health improvement strategy and of the measures to improve early detection of cancer, *A Picture of Health* identified that Lanarkshire will establish a cancer centre to further develop the quality of care which can be provided for cancer patients within Lanarkshire. The Lanarkshire Cancer Centre will:

- Provide specialist inpatient care for haematology (blood disorders including leukaemia)
- Provide specialist inpatient care for medical oncology (non-surgical treatment of cancer)
- Provide specialist inpatient breast surgery
- Provide specialist oncology clinics for cancers of the bowel, lung and breast using experts from the regional specialist cancer centre in Glasgow
- Link with the current nurse-led chemotherapy outpatient clinics held in each local hospital
- Link with local services such as: Haven Centre in Blantyre and the Maggie's Centre being developed in Lanarkshire.

Work towards identifying the best configuration of clinical haematology services in Lanarkshire was undertaken in 2005 with significant patient involvement and concluded that concentration of inpatient services on a single site within NHS Lanarkshire while retaining outpatient and day-case services on all three hospital sites would deliver the best quality of care, improved consultant recruitment and allow sub-specialisation within haematology.

The FRMC* option appraisal for specialist oncology services in the West of Scotland carried out in 2002 recommended that services should be developed on a tumour site-specific basis and within each health board be delivered from one designated site with links to the regional centre. Regional planning of oncology services identified the need for oncology inpatient beds within each board area. The implementation of the Lanarkshire Cancer Centre will facilitate this development, ensure appropriate support is available for specialist oncology inpatient beds, and allow a wider range of cancer treatments to be delivered within Lanarkshire.

Breast surgery services in Lanarkshire are currently provided from all three hospitals. In the Lanarkshire Cancer Centre, definitive breast surgery for breast cancer and non-malignant breast disease will be concentrated on the planned care hospital, but diagnostic work-up and subsequent treatments such as chemotherapy will continue to be provided from all three hospitals on an outpatient and day-case basis.

The Lanarkshire Maggie's Caring Centre will provide significantly improved support for cancer patients and their relatives. Although initial proposals have been for this to be sited at Wishaw, experience from other systems has identified the importance of such centres being sited on the same site as the Cancer Centre providing specialist oncology care.

During the consultation on *A Picture of Health* few comments were made about the cancer centre by members of the public; those that were being broadly supportive of the concept with no strong views about the site.

There is clinical support for the establishment of the Lanarkshire Cancer Centre, but varying views on where this should be sited. *A Picture of Health* proposes that the cancer centre would be in the planned care hospital. Consultant haematologists in Lanarkshire have expressed a preference for haematology in patient services to be focussed within one of the emergency care hospitals and their reasons for this view are being discussed and considered. Cancer nursing staff have expressed a preference for the Centre being on the planned hospital site. Discussion with "Maggie's" about the Lanarkshire Maggie's Caring Centre has identified the need for this to be on the same site as the Lanarkshire Cancer Centre. The core part of the cancer centre will be the oncology/haematology inpatient service and the specialist cancer clinics and although it would be advantageous for breast surgery services to be within the same hospital this is not essential.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important for the people of Lanarkshire particularly for those suffering from cancer and their relatives, that the Lanarkshire Cancer Centre is created on the most appropriate site to achieve the best possible quality of care.

In light of the contents of this paper, it is recommended that:-

- the Board confirms its intention to establish a cancer centre;
- that the cancer centre includes the development of specialist oncology beds;
- that breast surgery for breast cancer and non-malignant breast disease is concentrated on the planned care hospital site;
- that the Maggie's Caring Centre is developed in association, and co-located, with the Lanarkshire Cancer Centre; and
- that the siting of the Lanarkshire Cancer Centre is determined through further discussions and brought back to the Board in October 2006.

* *FRMC Decision Support Ltd facilitated a review of the strategic options for Cancer Services in the West of Scotland carried out by the West of Scotland Regional Cancer Advisory Group*

DR JOHN D BROWNING
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
19.06.06