

PICTURE OF HEALTH

1. PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

This paper is to inform the Board of the progress in relation to the Review of A&E Services as requested by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing. It also requests approval of the Board in relation to the process which is to be followed by the Board, the Independent Scrutiny Panel and the Scottish Executive leading to the decision by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing on the provision of A&E Services within NHS Lanarkshire.

2. REVIEW OF ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

a) Clinical Scenarios

The potential clinical scenarios to provide A&E Services at Monklands Hospital continue to be refined following discussion with both clinical groups and the project group established for this particular work. There are seven scenarios developed where A&E Services could be provided at Monklands Hospital. Work continues to assess the impact in implementation of these in relation to staffing, risks and benefits along with the impact upon the physical changes and subsequently the costs that would be required with implementation.

A workshop with the larger clinical and multi-professional group (as described to the Board last month) was held to undertake assessment of the scenarios in order that work could continue to firm up on the risks and benefits of each scenario.

Attendance at the workshop included a range of multi-professionals from within NHS Lanarkshire along with representatives from NHS Ayrshire & Arran and the Ambulance Service.

b) Engagement

It is intended to undertake wide engagement with staff and clinical specialty groups throughout the Review. These engagement events have not only helped to refine the scenarios but also identified the implications of implementing each scenario for the various clinical groups. To date there have been presentations and engagement with some twenty groups and this will continue throughout August. The information and comments gathered will be included within the submission to the Independent Scrutiny Panel.

Whilst the responsibility for public engagement will lie with the Independent Scrutiny Panel during this Review, the opportunity has been taken to meet with the North and South Patient Partnership Fora and an outline of the scenarios and subsequent potential impact on services has been discussed. Both PPFs intend to write to the Independent Scrutiny Panel to request that they are involved in the public engagement exercise once this work commences.

c) Communication with other bodies

In addition to the fortnightly meetings between NHS Ayrshire & Arran, the Scottish Executive and NHS Lanarkshire, further meetings are being held with a variety of officers in each of the Health Boards to establish a detailed action plan which will outline work and responsibilities leading towards completion of documentation which is to be submitted at the end of September. It will also indicate the necessary work which will be required continuously thereafter leading up to the decision of the Cabinet Secretary in February 2008. A high level overview of the work required and the timescales to be met is provided in the paper attached (see below).

Formal agreement has now been reached with the external auditors (Price, Waterhouse, Coopers) to undertake a review of the processes and procedures followed by the Board in compiling its submission to the Independent Scrutiny Panel. The work will include a review of all documentation and include meetings with senior staff to clarify and understand the work programme. It is intended that the auditors will probe NHS Lanarkshire at appropriate milestones to ensure that processes followed can be demonstrated to be robust to allow a Project Assurance Report from PWC to be included with the submission to the Independent Scrutiny Panel.

d) Work Programme

Work continues in a range of areas for each scenario including financial analysis, capital and logistics, implications for the Ambulance Service.

The capital costs for each scenario are being assessed by Currie and Brown who have been requested to identify not only the capital costs required to provide new facilities under each scenario but also to examine the minimal investment that would be required in capital to allow services to continue to be provided from sites.

Part of the September submission to the Independent Scrutiny Panel will include clinical evidence supporting the potential changes envisaged under the A&E Review. Work has commenced to compile this evidence and from a trawl of in excess of 5,000 abstracts a short list of approximately 300 abstracts has been compiled. Each of these abstracts requires critical appraisal by trained individuals to assess the implications of the evidence to each of the scenarios proposed. The evidence will be graded in accordance with the quality of the research undertaken.

A meeting has been held with the Vice Chancellor of York University, a Health Economist, who will provide an assessment and evaluation of the process followed in assembling clinical evidence to ensure it is robust and can withstand scrutiny. Again, the view of the Economist will be included in the report to the Board in September.

e) Independent Scrutiny Panel

Engagement with the Chairman of the Independent Scrutiny Panel (Andrew Walker) has occurred during the past month to principally agree the process that is to be followed over the forthcoming months leading to the Cabinet Secretary's decision in February 2008. This is outlined in the next section.

Engagement with the Chair has included the development of a detailed action plan which will support the process. Work will include clarifying and agreeing the process to be used for weighting the criteria and the detailed process for undertaking the scoring of the scenarios including how it is to be organised and who should participate. It is intended that engagement with the Chair will ensure that the submission of the Board's proposals will be developed and completed in a manner that is agreed with the Independent Scrutiny Panel. It is stressed that this engagement is not to agree the content of the submission as it will remain the Independent Scrutiny Panel's key role to scrutinise the content of the proposals and submission.

The other members of the Independent Scrutiny Panel are to include a clinical representative, a financial representative and health consumer representative. These appointments are expected to be confirmed in early September.

f) Process to undertake the review of A&E Services

It is necessary that there is a clear and open process in relation to the eventual decision on the provision of A&E Services within NHS Lanarkshire. Such a process requires to demonstrate how work will be undertaken in each stage of the process, and clearly demonstrates where key decisions are made and how these are to be taken. Attached is a paper prepared by Martin Hill, Modernisation Director which outlines the process that is to be followed and which will lead to the Health Board recommending a preferred option to the Cabinet Secretary in relation to the configuration of A&E Services.

The Board is requested to consider and agree the proposed process. It should be noted that the proposal has been agreed with the Board of NHS Ayrshire & Arran and has the support of the Scottish Executive and the Chair of the Independent Scrutiny Panel.

3. SUMMARY

The Board is requested to note the update on the work in relation to the Review of A&E Services and approve the proposed process for the Review of A&E Services

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