
To: Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board

On: 19th November 2015

Report by: Lead Officer

Heading: Review of Ward 15 (Children's Ward) Royal Alexandra Hospital

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board have agreed an annual programme of activity for the Board for 2015/16. This included a review of Ward 15 (Children's Ward) at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. The purpose of this is to provide an informed, evidence –based Council view of any consultation regarding the future of Ward 15.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board considers and approves:
- The purpose and proposed scope of its review of Ward 15 (Children's Ward) at the Royal Alexandra Hospital;
 - The provisional timescales associated with the review;
 - Delegated powers to the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Convener, to alter the proposed timescales of the review to accommodate the provision of material evidence, including that provided by witnesses;

- Authorise the lead officer to contact those organisations and individuals listed within the report as potential witnesses; and
- Authorise the lead officer to make the necessary arrangements to progress the review within the agreed timescales.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Royal Alexandra Hospital is situated in Paisley and serves a population of around 200,000 from a mix of rural and urban areas. Ward 15 is a children's ward which provides paediatric in-patient services. It consists of 28 bed spaces, made up of 16 in-patient beds, a 6 bedded area for short stay medical assessment and a 6 bedded area for day care and planned investigations. Alongside the ward, there is an outpatient department and the PANDA Centre provides community led child development facilities including therapies. Ward 15 is currently the only remaining acute inpatient facility for children in NHSGGC out-with the new Children's facility at the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Govan, Glasgow. With the opening of this new facility, there are potential implications for the future of Ward 15 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. This will be subject to a formal consultation and engagement process.
- 3.2 In 2010, guidance was given to Health Boards in terms of how they consider major changes to services. This introduced a new phase of informing and engaging that Boards must go through before they can even consider going to formal consultation and engagement. During the pre-consultation phase the Board must review the service, develops proposals and test these out with doctors and nurses; patients, families and carers and Public Partnership Fora. There are three stages to this process.
- 3.3 Stage one – NHSGGC share their reasons for change and actively discuss the ideas with staff, patients, carers and families. They listen to any concerns highlighted and answer questions to ascertain the patient and family viewpoint/perspective.
- 3.4 Stage two – Depending on what feedback has been received NHSGGC will possibly develop options for change.
- 3.5 Stage three – If going forward to this stage, NHSGGC will examine all the options considering the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. This is carried out with staff, patients, and carers in an 'Options Appraisal' process. The Board then review everything they have heard and the information they have collected to decide if there is a proposal that should be progressed. In

the instance that there is a preferred proposal this would be subject to a full public consultation.

- 3.6 In June 2011, the Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board agreed to explore the potential to consider the relocation of the in-patient paediatric service from Ward 15, The Royal Alexandra Hospital to The Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC) at Yorkhill, Glasgow.
- 3.7 In respect of formal consultation and engagement process for this exercise, over 60 families provided feedback to members of the NHSGGC Senior Management Team. Outreach sessions were held in the ward and meetings held with groups from the local community. The NHSGGC Board shared their views on the challenges they faced with maintaining the status quo in terms of service provision at Ward 15, also their views on the benefits of integrating service provision.
- 3.8 In response to the first stage of the process, the NHSGGC developed three options for the future of in-patient beds at Ward 15.
- 3.9 Option one – All overnight admissions to hospital would be to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow but a dedicated area for short stay medical assessment and planned medical and surgical day care would be retained adjacent to the outpatient department at the RAH.
- 3.10 Option two – All inpatient admissions, the short stay medical assessment facility and surgical day care paediatric services would be delivered from the Royal Hospital for Sick Children Glasgow.
- 3.11 Option three – No change. All of the services under review would remain in place at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.
- 3.12 The potential closure of the ward was controversial, and a local campaign by parents and citizens of the local communities entitled Kids Need Our Ward (KNOW) lobbied the NHSGGC Board members to save Ward 15 as they believed that this would have a negative impact on the children of Renfrewshire. Hollywood actor Gerard Butler gave his public support to the campaign which became high profile.
- 3.13 The Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC) NHS Board concluded the engagement and consultation process in February 2012 stating that 'Overall service provision should be incorporated into the wider strategic review of clinical services across NHSGGC to ensure that all of the implications in relation to other services are considered within the wider strategic framework'. This represented a temporary reprieve for Ward 15 of the Royal Alexandra Hospital, but not a firm commitment to keep it open in its current form indefinitely.

- 3.14 The new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital based in Govan, Glasgow opened in May 2015 at an estimated cost of £842 million. It is at 14 floors tall one of the largest in the UK and home to major specialist services such as renal medicine, transplantation and vascular surgery, with state of the art Critical Care, Theatre and Diagnostic Services. The adult hospital is integrated with the children's hospital, The Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow with separate functions and entrances. The new hospital replaced the Western General, Southern General, The Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill, the A&E at the Victoria Infirmary and the Mansionhouse Unit.
- 3.15 The children's hospital features 244 paediatric beds with a further 12 neonatal beds in the maternity unit next door. The vast majority of the paediatric beds are in single rooms with space for overnight accommodation for parents. The hospital also features a cinema – the Medicinema, Science Centre interactive activity walls funded by the Yorkhill Children's Charity, indoor and outdoor play areas and a roof garden. The hospital will provide a large number of specialist services to the West of Scotland and the wider population of Scotland in addition to the full range of secondary care services to people of Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Specialist services include: cardiology and cardiac surgery, renal and bone marrow transplantation. For a number of these services, the children's hospital is recognised as the sole provider in Scotland.

4. Local picture in Renfrewshire

- 4.1 The opening of the new hospital has ramifications for other hospitals within Greater Glasgow and Clyde, including the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.
- 4.2 The KNOW campaign group has expressed strong feelings on the potential relocation of services from the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley to the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in the south of Glasgow. They have highlighted a number of concerns, including a higher level of risk for Renfrewshire's children due to long, potentially life threatening journeys, as well as impractical and costly transportation for visiting family members.

5. Purpose of the Review

- 5.1 The key purpose of the review is to provide an evidence-based analysis of the current provision at Ward 15 within the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley and to inform the Council's stance on any NHSGGC consultation on the future of the Ward.

- 5.2 The review will focus on the level of need and quality of service provision at Ward 15 at the RAH and will highlight existing strengths and weaknesses.

6. Scope of the Review

- 6.1 In undertaking this review, it is recommended that the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board approve that the Lead Officer:
- Consults with families and patients within Renfrewshire who are currently attending Ward 15, as well as families and patients who have attended in the past. The intention of this is to identify current feeling within local communities regarding the Ward and any changes to the current set up.
 - Consults with NHSGGC colleagues to ascertain how they will mediate any concerns by families within Renfrewshire.
 - Presents comparative information on the current service provision of Ward 15 as well as the new Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow as a point of comparison in terms of providing commentary on the quality of service and care.
 - Presents comparison information on travel modes, routes, times and associated costs for families and patients travelling to both Ward 15 at The Royal Alexandra Hospital and The Royal Hospital Glasgow to ascertain potential risk as well as the level of convenience.

7. Timetable and Witnesses

- 7.1 It is proposed that the review commences following the meeting of the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board and thereafter is progressed through subsequent Board meetings, with a final report being submitted for approval prior to submission to a future meeting of the Council.
- 7.2 It is proposed that families and patients as well colleagues in NHSGGC are invited to provide written and spoken evidence prior to any meetings with the Board to allow members sufficient time for preparation ahead of the meeting. It is proposed that the Lead Officer take forward the indicative timetable as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

Implications of this report

- 1. Financial Implications – none.**
- 2. HR and Organisational Development Implications – none.**
- 3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications – none.**
- 4. Legal implications – none.**
- 5. Property and Assets implications – none.**
- 6. Information Technology implications – none.**
- 7. Equal & Human Rights implications – none.**
- 8. Health and Safety implications – none.**
- 9. Procurement implications – none.**
- 10. Risk implications – none.**
- 11. Privacy impact – none.**

List of background papers

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Appendix 1

Board Date	Action	Individuals and Organisations
30 November 2015	Scoping Paper submitted to Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board for approval.	
25 January 2016	<p>Establish picture of the value and necessity of Ward 15 (Children's Ward) within Royal Alexandra Hospital.</p> <p>Establish what the NHSGGC process is for considering the future of Ward 15.</p> <p>Identify level of local need - to be identified in consultation with families utilising services and local communities</p> <p>Level and quality of care at Ward 15 to be determined by performance, inspection and review reports and comparisons made with the new Royal Children's Hospital in Glasgow.</p>	<p>Families currently utilising Ward 15</p> <p>Community groups e.g. KNOW campaign.</p> <p>Engage Renfrewshire</p> <p>NHSGGC</p>
15 February 2016	<p>Hear evidence</p> <p>Transport in respect of Renfrewshire families getting to and from the new Royal Children's Hospital in Glasgow.</p>	<p>Community Groups</p> <p>NHSGGC</p> <p>Engage Renfrewshire</p> <p>Transport companies</p>
21 March 2016	<p>Hear evidence</p> <p>The experience of children and their families previously at Yorkhill Hospital now moved to the new Royal Children's Hospital in Glasgow.</p>	<p>Community Groups</p> <p>Families from Glasgow</p> <p>NHSGGC</p> <p>Engage Renfrewshire</p>
25 April 2016	Submit final draft	