

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

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| TO: Social Work (Operations & Services) Sub Committee | Subject: Greater Glasgow Health Board & West Glasgow Hospitals University NHS Trust: Rationalisation of Ophthalmology Services: Consultation Document |
| FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work | |
| DATE OF SUB COMMITTEE: 8th April 1997 | |
| REF: DM/JD | |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises members of the proposed reorganisation of ophthalmology services in Glasgow and the implications of such proposals for the population of North Lanarkshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 5% of the North Lanarkshire population live within the Greater Glasgow Health Board area (in Chryston, Stepps, Gartcosh and Moodiesburn). Their health care needs are funded by Greater Glasgow Health Board and met by providers contracted to the Board. Lanarkshire Health Board also purchase specialist services from NHS Trusts in Glasgow for the North Lanarkshire population where their needs cannot be met by providers within Lanarkshire.
- 2.2 The West Glasgow Hospitals University NHS Trust receives over 500 referrals for services for the North Lanarkshire population each year.
- 2.3 Consultation on proposals to reorganise ophthalmology services is currently taking place and responses are required by 5th May 1997.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 At present specialist ophthalmic services are delivered from three sites in the city (Gartnavel, Western, Eye Infirmary), requiring both patients and staff to move from one facility to another according to treatment. Greater Glasgow Health Board and West Glasgow Hospitals University NHS Trust propose to relocate all ophthalmology services in Glasgow to one site at Gartnavel Hospital. This would mean the withdrawal of clinical ophthalmology services from the Glasgow Eye Infirmary and subsequent closure of that hospital.
- 3.2 The proposals include a reduction of in-patient beds from 24 to 20 as increasing amounts of day surgery replace treatments which formerly required in-patient admission.

3.3 Greater Glasgow Health Board view the proposed benefits of the reorganisation as:

- Patients would not have to visit several locations for one episode of care;
- There would not require to be staff movement across sites;
- Accident and Emergency services would be based at one location;
- Adjacent day case and outpatient facilities would allow for development of day surgery;
- There would be better public access by rail, bus and car.

4. IMPLICATIONS

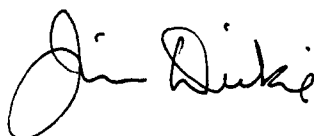
4.1 The move to Gartnavel Hospital is likely to increase the inconvenience for people travelling from the Cryston area of North Lanarkshire for specialist treatment. Strong concerns regarding this issue have previously been expressed by Committee and should be further underlined in response to this proposal. The proposals should also, however, result in a reduction in the number of journeys between hospital sites that take place at present.

4.2 The reorganisation provides an opportunity for ophthalmic services to be provided comprehensively on one site. Whilst Greater Glasgow Health Board expect to make financial savings by relocating services, it is important to emphasise the Council's expectation that any changes should enhance patient care.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to:

- i) note the contents of the above report and;
- ii) endorse the comments of the report as a basis for the Council's response to the consultation.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
March 1997

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