

## NHS Highland Briefing Note, No. 2 – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012

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In the Highland Council area, it is estimated that there are around 4000 people living with dementia and this is set to double in the next 10 years. A recent assessment has shown that over £4 million per year is spent on keeping 68 dementia beds open across six units (Wick Town and County, Migdale (Bonar Bridge), Fyrish Ward located on County Community Hospital site in Invergordon, New Craigs (Inverness) and Lynwlg Ward (St Vincent's Kingussie). During the last four years, on average these units have only been two thirds occupied.

Work is ongoing in [Argyll & Bute](#) and progressing well. This will result in a significantly increased community mental health service with a new inpatient facility in Lochgilphead.

### 7. Pan-highland general surgical services

While there is a lack of theatre capacity in Raigmore Hospital there is capacity (actual and potential), at our other main sites Caithness General in Wick; Belford Hospital in Fort William and Lorn and Islands in Oban. Waiting times at these sites are also often shorter. We are looking at ways of making best use of all clinical capacity across Highland. It forms part of our [Patient Access Policy](#), which was updated in April 2011 and highlighted in Health Check.

### 8. Highland Alcohol and Drugs and approved the Partnership

Priority areas for action are: Recovery, Maximising Health, Protecting Communities and Children and Families, summarised as follows:

- **Recovery** - *An effective integrated care pathway offering a flexible range of services from assessment to recovery is in place*
- **Maximising Health** - *Health in Highland is maximised and communities feel engaged and empowered to make healthier choices regarding alcohol and drugs*
- **Protecting Communities** - *Individuals and communities are protected against substance misuse harm*
- **Children & Families** - *Children affected by parental substance misuse are protected and build resilience through the joint working of adult and children's services*

### 9. Service re-design linked to Unscheduled Care (Emergency and Out of Hours)

#### 9.1 Cowal Peninsula, Cowal and Bute - Argyll and Bute CHP

A working group '[Cowal](#) 24/7' has been set up to examine and develop potential options for the sustainable provision of GP out of hours services covering the peninsula. The review will include medical cover within Cowal Community Hospital.

#### 9.2 Inveraray Opt out of providing Out of Hours - Argyll and Bute CHP

The GP has given notice of his plans to opt out from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. It is likely, however, that they will not be given permission to do this until October. The ground work to inform the public and address this issue will start very soon.

### 9.3 West Ardnamurchan, Lochaber – Mid Highland

Following a meeting with Community Representatives on 7<sup>th</sup> February, Representatives have now agreed to at least consider the proposed Emergency Responder model. NHS Highland has appointed to the [Community Nurse](#) post (that will be vacant in late February) and the candidate has indicated a strong interest to live in the West Ardnamurchan area including participating in the emergency response model. In addition, as a result of advertising for healthcare professionals to be part of the Responder model, Scottish Ambulance is in the process of recruiting a retained Ambulance Technician. These appointments could make the model possible.

We have formally written to the Community Council providing further details and will circulate the information to every household. If the scheme gets up and running it will be formally and independently evaluated on an action learning basis. The Chair and Board Medical Director together with colleagues from Scottish Ambulance Service are meeting with the local community later on this month. We are hopeful that we will be able to make further progress.

### 9.4 Glenelg and Arnisdale, Skye and Lochalsh - Mid Highland CHP

One of the local GP's in Glenelg applied for and has been granted a secondment with the Scottish Government for the next two years. Since July 2011 Mid Highland CHP has been looking at the options and a working group that included community representatives was set up. It should be noted that, although the area of greatest concern to members of the community is linked to emergency and urgent response, which is the responsibility of the Scottish Ambulance Service, options for how the Practice works during the day are also being considered.

Options for both in and out of hours are still being developed and no decisions have yet been made. An options appraisal was planned for January 2012, however we decided to postpone this due to ongoing concerns from local representatives and to allow for further discussions with SAS. Representatives of the community requested a meeting with Scottish Health Council (SHC) This meeting took place at the end of January, and NHS Highland has since also met with SHC on this specific matter. The agreed next steps is that NHS Highland will meet with a wider group of local representatives to review the process and together agree the best way of engaging and involving the local community. In the meantime the status quo is being maintained through use of Locum Doctors.

## 10 Other Topical Items and Dates to Note

### 10.1 Outbreak of *Clostridium difficile*

There was an outbreak of *Clostridium difficile* in Raigmore Hospital on 19<sup>th</sup> January. The decision to call the outbreak related to five cases which were confined to two wards, one of which had to be closed to new admissions. The outbreak was formally declared over on 31<sup>st</sup> of January and the ward re-opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. During the out-break a total of eight patients were confirmed as having *C. difficile*; no patients died.

### 10.2 Fire Compliance

Highland Fire and Rescue Service is embarking on a programme of inspections on Fire Compliance. Inspections have already taken place at a number of hospital including Raigmore, Ross Memorial, Invergordon, New Craigs, Cowl Community, Islay and Migdale.

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We have had some notices of unsatisfactory performance which relate to fire arrangements (such as record keeping) and building defects (such as fabric faults). Issues with the buildings are more difficult to deal with and will have future capital implications, but plans are being progressed to manage and prioritise any risks and make sure improvement works won't impact on clinical services.

### 10.3 Islay & Jura GP

[Recruitment](#) to GP for Islay and Jura is underway

### 10.4 Inveraray Opt out of providing Out of Hours

The GP has given notice of his plans to opt out from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. It is likely, however, that they will not be given permission to do this until October. The ground work to inform the public and address this issue will start very soon.

### 10.5 Broadford Medical Centre, Isle of Skye

The discovery of archaeological remains on the site of the new £1.3 million health centre delayed construction work for several weeks to allow further excavations works. Some of the artefacts uncovered are considered to be of national significance. The construction project is now expected to be completed by the end of April. There will be a further period of approximately five to six weeks to permit commissioning and equipping of the building and to facilitate relocation. It is hoped that the new health centre will be fully operational by mid to late June 2012.

### 10.6 Further Information

- 10<sup>th</sup> January - Formal opening of Cath Lab Raigmore Hospital
- 11<sup>th</sup> January - Opening of Dunbar Dental Clinic
- 30<sup>th</sup> January - Opening of Portree Dental Clinic
- February – Detect cancer early campaign starts
- 8<sup>th</sup> March – Formal opening of Portree Dental clinic
- 12-18<sup>th</sup> March – Climate week
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Date of next NHS Highland Board Meeting

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