

Developing and improving services for older people in Renfrewshire

Consultation on proposal to close Johnstone Hospital
and transfer its services to more modern accommodation



Foreword

As the population continues to age, making sure we have the right services in place to meet the needs of older people has never been more important.

This includes making sure that older people have access to a wide range of services as close to home as possible. We know that older people value their independence and want to stay in their own homes for as long as possible. By providing the right type of services and support many older people can now be cared for at home or in supported accommodation rather than in hospital.

We recognise, however, that there will always be a need to provide long term care for older people with very complex health needs. Our aim is to ensure that these services are provided in modern accommodation with the right facilities to meet the needs of patients and staff.

Over the last few years all of the key organisations who provide services to older people in Renfrewshire have worked together to review existing services, identify gaps and highlight areas for improvement.

As a result, many new developments are already under way to improve services for older people across Renfrewshire. We now want to focus on modernising services for the small number of older people with the most complex health needs who require specialist NHS care. In the following pages we have set out a proposal to transfer these specialist services from Johnstone Hospital to a more modern facility, ideally in either Paisley or Renfrew.

We believe this change is necessary to improve services for local patients and their families however we also want to know what you think about this proposed change.

I therefore hope that you will take time to read this leaflet and take part in the public consultation.

David Leese

Director
Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership



Introduction



We are committed to developing and improving services for older people across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Over the last year, as part of the ongoing work to review older people's services in Renfrewshire, we carried out a review of the specialist long-term care services provided at Johnstone Hospital.

This review gave us the chance to look afresh at how local services for older people are provided. It also gave us the opportunity to explore what needed to be done to bring our existing services up-to-date and ensure they meet national standards.

During the review we held a number of engagement events with a range of people, including family members and carers, to update them on the review process, explain the proposals for change and answer their questions. Our proposals have also been reviewed by an Independent Scrutiny Panel, set up by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing.

This leaflet describes the services provided at Johnstone Hospital, explains why current services need to change, sets out our proposal for the future and tells you how you can put forward your views.

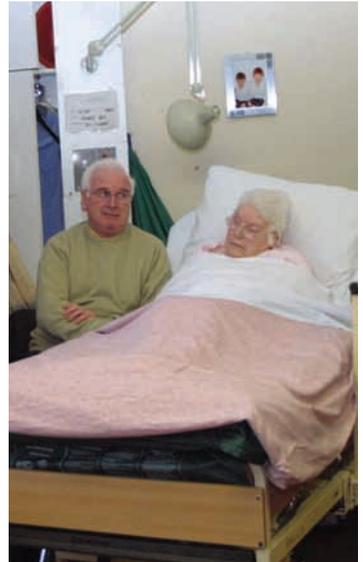
The public consultation started on 18th February 2008 and ends on 5th May 2008.

What does Johnstone Hospital provide?

Johnstone Hospital provides specialist long-term NHS care for older people with complex health needs. The current hospital wards opened in 1985 and over the last five years the number of beds it provides has reduced due to an increase in the range and type of services available to support older people at home or in alternative community based facilities.

The hospital currently provides 60 beds in two 30 bed wards, each containing four six bedded rooms and six single rooms. The number of beds is set to reduce further as more local services and facilities become available which offer appropriate alternatives to hospital care.

The majority of current residents come from Paisley and Renfrew and less than 20% are from the local Johnstone area. The hospital currently has more than 70 nursing staff as well as a range of medical and support staff.



Why change services?



Although the quality of care provided at Johnstone Hospital has never been in question, the accommodation and facilities no longer meet the high standards expected in a modern health service.

For example, national guidelines recommend that older people who require long-term care should be treated in modern facilities with individual bedrooms and en-suite facilities. These facilities would offer patients far greater levels of privacy, dignity and respect than the current large multi-bedded wards at Johnstone Hospital are able to provide.

In addition, when Johnstone Hospital was first built it was only designed to meet the needs of patients who required specialist care for a few

months, often towards the end of their lives. A recent review, however, has shown that a number of patients who were admitted before alternatives to long-term hospital care were available have been resident for many years, far longer than was originally intended. Fortunately, with the increase in the range of services and support available many patients are now more appropriately cared for in alternative local facilities and others, who do require specialist inpatient care, no longer have to spend such long periods of time in hospital.

The approach to caring for older people has also changed significantly in the last twenty years since Johnstone Hospital opened. In the past, many older people were cared for in long-stay hospitals or large institutions because there were no



alternatives. Thinking and services have moved on and it is now recognised that, with the right level of care and support, many older people are able to live independently in their own homes.

The proposed way forward?

We believe older people with the most complex needs deserve to be cared for in modern, purpose-built facilities, designed to meet these needs. The cost of improving and upgrading the existing hospital would be extremely high as the layout and design of this older building would have to be completely transformed to meet modern standards and make it fully accessible for patients. It would also be very disruptive as existing patients would have to be moved to alternative accommodation while the upgrading work took place.

In addition, the existing hospital site is relatively isolated from the other main towns and communities within Renfrewshire where the majority of existing patients come from. Taking all of these factors into account, we do not believe it makes practical or financial sense to retain services on



the existing hospital site. We also explored whether it would be possible to transfer services to the Royal Alexandra Hospital site in Paisley. However, after examining this option in more detail, we found there simply isn't space within the site to build the type of new facility required. In recent years there has also been a move away from locating long stay NHS care facilities alongside acute hospital services as it is generally agreed that these services are best provided in less clinical surroundings. In addition, we do not believe that a site which is already very busy and often congested would provide the best or most accessible location for patients and their families.

Our preferred option is therefore to transfer the services to a modern facility in Renfrewshire, ideally in either Paisley or Renfrew, which has been designed specifically to meet the needs of older people with complex health and care needs. This facility would be run in partnership with an established provider of elderly care services. It would continue to offer high quality NHS care provided by medical and nursing staff employed by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Similar partnership arrangements already operate successfully in other parts of the country, including Glasgow.

It would also ensure that, rather than being cared for in large wards with multi-bedded rooms, patients would have single bedrooms with en-suite facilities which offer far greater privacy, dignity and respect.

The Independent Scrutiny Panel, which was set up by the Scottish Government to review a number of our proposed changes to health services across Clyde, concluded that the existing hospital buildings fail to meet current standards of care and they also highlighted a number of concerns about patient access and privacy. Overall, they believe our proposals for Johnstone Hospital are correct and based on sound principles.

We recognise that these proposed changes to services currently provided at Johnstone Hospital may affect existing patients. If these proposals are approved we would therefore continue to work closely with patients, their families and carers to take forward plans. In addition, many staff currently working at Johnstone Hospital would be expected to transfer to the new facility and others would be offered redeployment opportunities across Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

What would the proposed changes mean?

The proposed changes would:

- Provide specialist NHS care in a modern, high quality building, better suited to the needs of local patients and their families
- Significantly improve the standard of accommodation and facilities currently available, including better access for disabled patients
- Ensure patients continue to have access to the same high quality specialist NHS care, provided by experienced NHS staff
- Increase privacy and dignity by providing individual bedrooms with en-suite facilities
- Transfer services to a more accessible location within Renfrewshire
- Meet national care standards and bring local services into line with arrangements in other parts of Scotland
- Ensure that older people are cared for in the most appropriate facilities, depending on their individual needs
- Modernise and improve existing services, while at the same time generate savings to contribute to the financial recovery plan for Clyde



Wider service developments

The review of long-term NHS care services at Johnstone Hospital is part of a wider plan to develop and improve services for older people across Renfrewshire. These plans, which are being taken forward in partnership with Renfrewshire Council, are designed to increase the independence of older people by helping them to manage their long-term health problems and avoid hospital admission. Where this is not possible, the aim is to reduce the length of time older people have to stay in hospital by ensuring the right services and support are in place to allow them to return home.

Over the next year a number of new service developments will be taken forward. These include the development of a joint district nursing and social work project to support older people with chronic disease who are at risk of multiple

hospital admissions. Two new specialist older people nurses have also been appointed to provide advice and clinical support to care homes to help prevent inappropriate hospital admission. New extra care housing facilities, which provide round-the-clock care and a meals service, have been built and there are plans to expand the community alarms service to provide 24hr support for vulnerable older people across Renfrewshire.

Tell us what you think

This consultation was launched by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde on 18th February 2008 and a copy of the full consultation paper can be obtained from our website (www.nhsggc.org.uk/renfrewshireolderpeople) or by calling 0800 027 7246 during normal office hours.

Comments on all aspects of the consultation paper are welcome. You can either email your comments to us at renfrewshireolderpeople@nhsggc.org.uk or write to

John Hamilton

Head of Board Administration, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Dalian House, 350 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8YZ

Public meeting

A public consultation meeting will be held on Thursday 13th March 2008 at the Glynhill Hotel, 169 Paisley Road, Renfrew between 5.30 and 7.30pm. If you would like to attend you must register in advance by calling 0800 027 7246 during normal office hours.

If more people wish to attend than the venue can accommodate, a second meeting will be organised. A separate meeting is also being organised specifically for the families and carers of existing patients.

If you would like this information in a different language or format (e.g. large print or audio cassette) please contact 0141 201 4461.

The consultation will end on May 5th 2008.

If you would like this document in another language, please contact:

Ma tha sibh ag iarraidh an fhiosrachaidh seo ann an cànan eile, cuiribh fios gu:

如果您需要该信息的其它语言版本，请联系：

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