



30 January 2024

Lochaber Times column

Following the Scottish Government's recent announcement regarding halting all capital spending we can regretfully confirm that work of the new Hospital for Lochaber is to stop.

We share the disappointment and frustration with the local community and, of course, our staff who have been committed to working tirelessly on this project for some time.

Earlier this month the Scottish Government announced a freeze on all NHS construction projects for at least two years. All funding is to be directed towards building maintenance and repairs. Details of a revised infrastructure investment plan are expected in the spring.

We are in constant dialogue with our stakeholders to understand and manage the way forward and as part of that planning is also underway to host an event when we will be able to provide further clarity and respond to the inevitable questions that we all currently have.

The proposed new hospital however, was only part of a significant redesign project and we are pleased to report that work of the redesign of community and acute services will continue.

The detailing of the service changes is currently being worked on and will inevitably take time to review and test however, the focus will be around five key areas of change that will include –

- **Living Well/Waiting Well**
This will examine prevention activities to enable people to stay healthy and independently at home.
- **Care and Support**
This will look at how our community teams work with increasing flexibility and make more use of technology to support people in their homes.
- **Single Point of Access Service**
This will review how we will ensure that citizens can easily access the services they require in a timely manner.
- **Frailty Service**
This will examine how we enhance person centred care and reduce falls in the home.
- **Intermediate Care Service**
Lastly, this will look at how we improve the delivery of intermediate care services and better integrate with partners.

This work is also aligned to the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership Joint Strategic Plan which was consulted on in 2023. We will be engaging with people and organisations

across Lochaber on these changes as the projects develop and further updates will be provided in due course.

Managing modern day health and social care continues to be complex and challenging but you can be assured that all our teams are dedicated to providing the best services possible to ensure we continue to have a healthy and thriving community.

Please continue to check [the NHS Highland website](#) for further updates and information. You can also contact nhsh.nhshighlandestatesprojctcs@nhs.scot if you have any questions.