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## **Lochaber Health & Social Care Redesign (including the latest on the new Belford Hospital)**

### **Background:**

Funding for a replacement Belford Hospital, Fort William has been secured, in principle, as part of a wider redesign of health and social care services in Lochaber. To oversee the work a steering group has been set up, supported by a number of sub-groups. Members of the communications and engagement group have summarised this latest series of questions and answers. These have been asked by staff and the public about the redesign of services and, in particular, about the hospital.

The redesign is at an early stage but NHS Highland will be looking to work with local people to develop options for the future and carry out ongoing engagement and consultation as required.

Should the changes be considered to be 'Major' then a period of formal public consultation would be required. NHS Highland is also working closely with our local partner agencies, the Scottish Government and Scottish Health Council on the proposals.

If you have a question you would like answered, please get in touch via the contact details below. Once they have been considered, the communications and engagement sub-group below will provide responses.

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# Questions and Answers

## **1. Is the Belford Hospital going to be replaced and, if so, when?**

Yes. The timetable that we are working to is that it will be constructed during 2020/2021. Our first key milestone is to submit an Initial Agreement document to the Scottish Government by summer 2018. This will set out what services will be delivered in the community and in the new hospital.

## **2. Will the replacement be a Rural General Hospital?**

Yes.

## **3. Will there still be an Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) in the new hospital?**

Yes.

## **4. Will there still be an operating theatre?**

Yes.

## **5. What other services will be provided in the hospital?**

These will be similar to those currently provided including outpatients, day surgery, acute medical and surgical assessment, renal unit, maternity services, infusions and transfusions.

Any changes to current services will reflect wider changes to health and social care services in Lochaber; modern standards, guidelines and addressing any staffing challenges.

## **6. Will the new hospital have consultants?**

Yes. The plan is to deliver a consultant led service. However, there are some challenges in providing consultant cover for Rural General Hospitals and so it will be important to develop a model which is both safe and sustainable.

## **7. What about visiting consultant services?**

A separate briefing is being prepared on visiting services.

## **8. Will there be 24/7 nursing and medical cover?**

Yes, with other staff groups as appropriate.

## **9. Is the redesign just looking at the local hospital services?**

No. In common with all districts NHS Highland has an ongoing programme of redesign to develop community based health and social care services including Care at Home, Care Homes and end of life care. A Highland-wide overview of care homes including those provided by NHS Highland and private or third sector providers. Developments of new technology are also being considered.

**10. Are there plans to extend the range of services provided locally?**

Clinicians and managers will review data to look at future needs. Any developments will need to be sustainable both from a staffing and cost point of view.

**11. Will there be a reduction in the number of hospital beds?**

Currently there are 34 beds in the hospital. Detailed bed modelling will take place to determine the right number and type of beds. The exact number depends on the ability to develop community based-services including Care at Home. Across NHS Highland, and indeed Scotland, the number of hospital beds (including Rural General Hospitals) has been reducing over the years. This is a positive development because people should only be admitted to hospital if there is a clinical need.

**12. It has been suggested that all the beds in the new hospital will be provided in single rooms – is that correct?**

The current national guidance is that any new hospital with inpatient beds will be provided in single rooms. While there are a number of benefits of this, it is fair to say that it also raises some concerns from staff, patients and members of the public who often have strong views. If the requirement is to have single rooms the design and layout is key. If there is a change in policy, then further discussions would be required to work out the right mix of single and multiple bed rooms before the building design starts.

**13. Has a possible site in Fort William been identified?**

Yes – Blar Mor. This is land adjacent to the Fort William Health Centre.

The site was purchased through The Highland Council's land bank and the plan is to share the site with the West Highland College, part of the UHI network. We are looking at the possibility of develop the site jointly, sharing drainage, car parking, lighting, energy centre, plus the possibility of sharing parts of the building, meeting space, café, kitchen, etc. However, the concept is still at a very early stage

**14. Is the Blar Mor site big enough?**

Yes.

**15. Will the hospital be bigger or smaller?**

This is what the business case process will determine. It is important to get the service model and workforce plan right and then design and build the appropriate clinical space.

**16. Will laundry and kitchen services be retained locally?**

As well as looking at what clinical services are required, work will also have to take place on reviewing non-clinical services. Needs will be identified and options will be considered and costed, as well as considerations as to staffing. This will be finalised as part of the Business Case Process.

**17. What services will there be for patients and visitors?**

Various options will be considered and the views of service users, staff and members of the public will be important. One consideration is to have accommodation facilities for patients who have to travel. Again, the need will be assessed and the best solution put in place.

**18. Will staff have a say in the design of the new build?**

Yes. Staff and other stakeholders will all be involved in the design of the new hospital and the wider redesign of services. They will be involved in agreeing the clinical model, the workforce plan, and the building design.

**19. Will these be any job losses?**

No. NHS Scotland has a no redundancy policy. However, there may be some changes to roles and responsibilities including where staff work from. Should any jobs no longer be required, then staff would be placed on the redeployment register and go through our internal process of organisational change.

**20. Who will build the hospital and will it be Eco-Friendly?**

Architects, other professionals and contractors will be appointed through a competitive process. Eco-efficiency will be an important criterion.

**21. Will there be adequate parking and will there be a bus service/bike sheds?**

As part of preparing the Business Case and obtaining planning permission a Transport and Access Plan will be required. This will cover how people will get to the new hospital including active travel. A Transport and Access Sub Group has already been set up.

**22. What will happen to the old Belford once it is vacated?**

NHS Highland will declare the building surplus to requirements. The building and site will be offered first to the public sector for future development. The old Belford site is zoned in the Council's development plan for mixed use which includes housing.

**23. Will the current Belford Hospital last until the new hospital is built?**

Yes. NHS Highland will continue to maintain the building to ensure it is safe.

**24th July 2017**