



Belford Replacement progress update

Welcome to the latest update in our series which aims to keep you up to date with our progress towards the replacement for the Belford Hospital, which will be on the Blàr Mòr site opposite the police station in Fort William.

Our previous update highlighted the work being done by NHS Highland with the support of local Community Representatives and Contractors in preparation for making sure services are patient-focussed, both within the new hospital and surrounding community.

In this update we will highlight Balfour Beatty's upcoming Meet the Contractor event in September; discuss our plans for departmental layouts; outline the next stage our workforce planning and the importance of developing flexible plans for service provision and plan ahead to the upcoming community redesign meetings.

Balfour Beatty delivers some of the largest and most complex construction and infrastructure projects at the heart of communities across Scotland.

Their Meet The Contractor event allows local suppliers, charities and supported businesses in Lochaber who want to work with Balfour Beatty, the opportunities to raise their profile and find out what you need to do to prepare for upcoming contract opportunities.

They are interested in meet with trades from the local community to support with the replacement Belford Hospital project, including groundworks, landscaping, metalwork, joinery, brickwork and more. Further information is available at: <https://www.sdpscotland.co.uk/events/balfour-beatty-meet-the-contractor-in-person-event-1545/>

The event will be held on Tuesday, 19th September 2023 between 9am-2pm in the Caol Community Centre, Glenkingie Street, Caol, PH33 7DS.

NHS Highland is developing plans for the departmental layouts of the replacement Belford Hospital. This is a collaborative approach between the project team and our clinical leads, and we work closely together to approve layout plans for departments in the new hospital.

At the same time, our workforce planning is being developed in partnership with the clinical teams in the hospital.

Building a new hospital and redesigning health and social care services across our communities in Lochaber is an evolving process, and all programmes of work in this redesign are subject to continual review by the project team, clinical leads and wider NHS Highland executive leadership.

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This enables us to be flexible in our planning and develop services to ensure we continue to meet the needs of the local communities we serve both now and in the future. It is important to highlight that when we sign-off on programmes, such as the workforce plan, that these are flexible and can be altered to ensure we deliver the best possible services to the local population. Further development of any plans will be done in consultation with clinical leads and we will update community stakeholders to ensure they are fully sighted on our planning processes.

Our second and third community redesign meetings will be held with broad partner involvement alongside community representatives in the near future. These meetings are vitally important in helping us to ensure that all health and care services are redesigned and evaluated to ensure pathways of care are seamless for the people who live in, and visit, Lochaber.

We will provide regular updates in these columns on this work, as well as holding further public events, briefing community stakeholders and elected members.

If you would like to get in touch with questions or comments, you can contact us via the NHS Highland Feedback team Nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot or 01463 705997, or via our project email address on nhsh.nhshighlandstatesprojects@nhs.scot