For adult mental health inpatient services we describe two future options on which we would also like your feedback. It is vital that we hear your views about all of these proposals.

On page 11 of this newsletter you will find details of how you can make your views known.

This newsletter provides only a brief summary of our Vision: you can obtain the full consultation paper by calling 0800 027 7246 or downloading it from our website www.nhsggc.org.uk/valeofleven
A NEW MODEL FOR UNSCHEDULED CARE

Since 2004, people who experience the most serious injuries through accidents or sudden illness have been transported directly to the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Service at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley. There are also other types of patients, whose condition is not as serious, but still need swift assessment and treatment before possible admission to hospital. These patients receive what is called ‘unscheduled’ medical care. This is currently provided by the Vale of Leven Hospital’s Medical Assessment Unit.

Unscheduled medical care is provided to 6,300 patients each year at the Vale and is supported by access to anaesthetic cover. This is in place because a small proportion of the patients receiving this type of care at the Vale may be at higher risk of becoming more seriously ill and requiring urgent treatment.

There have been four reviews of anaesthetic services at the Vale of Leven Hospital, the most recent in the summer of 2008. All concluded that anaesthetic services are not sustainable 24 hours every day. This means that we need to change the way in which unscheduled medical care is provided at the Hospital.

The challenge is to provide unscheduled care in a way which is clinically safe and allows as many patients as possible to be treated at the Vale of Leven Hospital. Independent experts who reviewed services in August 2008 thought that a model of care could be developed which would allow between 36% and a maximum of 83% of unscheduled medical patient care to be retained at the Vale of Leven.

Based on the detailed work we have undertaken since receiving the review team’s recommendations, we are proposing that new service arrangements be introduced:

- The Medical Assessment Unit will become a Consultant Supported GP led Acute Unit and will provide unplanned medical care to between 4,400 and 5,300 patients every year – between 70% and 80% of the current level.
- The Unit will be operational 24 hours a day and be staffed by General Practitioners (GPs) with support from consultants if it is required.
- Patients will be screened by ambulance crews, local GPs and in the Vale Hospital using clinical protocols and a clinical scoring system. If it is safe, and clinically appropriate, patients will be cared for in the Vale. If patients are more seriously ill and are at greater risk, potentially requiring higher dependency care, they will be taken to the A & E at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. The scoring system will be a further development of the one which is already in wide use in the local area.

Our proposals for unscheduled medical care would mean that between 1,000 and 1,900 of the 6,300 who currently attend the Vale Medical Assessment Unit will also need to attend the A & E in Paisley. This will include, for example, people who have suffered a stroke, epileptics suffering convulsions, people with serious gastro-intestinal bleeding and people who have overdosed on drugs.

We are committed to working with the Scottish Ambulance Service to provide the extra funding needed to ensure an increased level of paramedic services, including vehicles to enable the rapid transfer of patients around the clock.

Our Vision for the Hospital is that there will be no change to its Minor Injuries Unit. This treats 9,000 patients each year who have suffered conditions like wounds, fractures, dislocations, sprains, burns and eye injuries.
As a result of public consultation earlier in 2008, we have agreed to maintain the Vale’s Community Maternity Unit. Over the next three years, we intend to put in place and deliver a plan aimed at generating greater awareness of the excellent work undertaken by the Vale’s midwives and encourage women, where possible, to give birth in their local hospital. The unit supports 14,000 patient episodes each year and we hope to see more in the coming years.

We propose bringing in the following new services to the Vale:

- A new £3.6 million dental complex offering community, general and secondary dental care allowing people who attend 4,700 appointments at the Glasgow Dental Hospital to be treated closer to home.
- Expanded surgical services, including increased numbers of patients receiving Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), orthopaedic, general surgery and endoscopy (internal investigation using a small camera) appointments, operations and procedures at the Vale. New services in ophthalmology (eyes) and urology will also be developed. Together these developments will mean 7,200 patient appointments at the Vale as opposed to Paisley or Glasgow. We will support this with investment of approximately £700,000 in new surgical equipment.
- Development of a Rheumatology Service (treatment of problems with joints, soft tissues and connective tissues) bringing a further 1,500 appointments to the Vale.
- Expanded specialist services including kidney dialysis and cancer care allowing 3,750 appointments to be provided at the Vale rather than in Glasgow.
- We also plan to increase the number of appointments at the Vale for people undergoing CT, Ultrasound, x-ray, mammography and fluoroscopy examinations at the Vale by 1,200 each year.
- In future, we propose that day-to-day care will be provided by the medical workforce covering the rest of the Hospital. There are currently 59 rehabilitation beds at the Vale of Leven Hospital but a number of these are often occupied by general medical patients. In the future we propose 37 rehabilitation beds and retain one in four beds for older people needing continuing care.
- In addition to inpatient services, there will also continue to be consultant led outpatient clinics and a day hospital for elderly people provided on the Vale site. We are also exploring the development of a palliative (end of life) care service at the Vale of Leven.

The provision of a comprehensive Rehabilitation service on the Vale of Leven site is a key element in our Vision for the Hospital. Older people who have been first admitted to either medicine, surgery or orthopaedics may require a further period of time in hospital to allow them to be fit for discharge. This care is called ‘rehabilitation’ and it should be delivered as close to people’s homes and families as possible.

As is currently the case, patients requiring inpatient rehabilitation care will continue to have a named rehabilitation consultant responsible for their care.
### Mental Health Services

Our proposals for mental health take into account feedback received during public consultation in 2008 on modernising mental health services across Clyde as a whole.

In addition to taking account of public feedback we have also been able to take advantage of the medical staffing arrangements arising from the wider Vision for the Hospital. For these reasons our Vision is to retain the elderly mental health acute admission beds on the Vale of Leven site and transfer the continuing care beds for elderly mental health patients from Dumbarton Joint Hospital to the Vale of Leven Hospital. Based on the feedback received during pre-consultation we believe that this proposal will be well received.

For inpatient mental health services for adult patients between the ages of 18 and 65, the community based crisis team which has been established is already ensuring that fewer patients require admission to hospital. We therefore project that the number of acute inpatient beds for adults will reduce from 18 down to 12.

### Bed Numbers and Patient Episodes

We think that, taken together, these proposals mean that we can retain around 72% of the Vale of Leven’s surgical and medical inpatient beds on the site – up to 88 out of the current 122 beds.

Our Vision for the Hospital is to significantly enhance the level of non-inpatient activity. The table below summarises the impact that our vision will have:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Current Patient Episodes</th>
<th>Future Patient Episodes</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient Services</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daycase and Short Stay Planned Procedures</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned Diagnostic Services</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Midwifery Unit services</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>14,000+</td>
<td>Information campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Hospital for Elderly Patients</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care Emergency Services</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Injuries Unit</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assessment Unit (Unscheduled Care)</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>4,410 – 5,292</td>
<td>20 – 30% less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Planned Care Services</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>18,350</td>
<td>20% more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>115,300</strong></td>
<td><strong>131,760</strong></td>
<td><strong>14% more</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We would welcome your feedback on both options.
A NEW PURPOSE BUILT
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CENTRE

We plan to further develop the Vale of Leven Hospital site by building the replacement for the Alexandria Medical Centre there. This will ensure that the Vale offers a complete, co-ordinated package of services on one site spanning primary care, community health, hospital and social services. These will include GPs, Community Mental Health Services, nutrition and dietetics, physiotherapy, podiatry (feet), audiology (hearing) children’s services and a Community Nursing team. £18.2 million of investment will be used to provide a modern, fully equipped facility adaptable to new working patterns and changes in healthcare.

TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

We think that our proposals will mean that more patients will be using the Vale of Leven Hospital in future to access outpatient, daycase and diagnostic services. This means that fewer people in Argyll, the Lochside and West Dunbartonshire will need to travel to Glasgow or Paisley to access care. In total we anticipate that 18,350 fewer journeys will need to be made for planned care.

The changes that we propose for unscheduled medical care would mean that between 1,000 and 1,900 patients would have to travel to the Royal Alexandra Hospital each year. Significant numbers of these will travel by ambulance. We firmly believe that the Vision we have developed represents the best possible balance between providing local access to high quality services and a requirement to travel for more specialist or intensive care on the occasions when it is required.

We understand that local people have concerns about transporting patients to the Royal Alexandra. However, since 2004 approximately 5,000 patients each year have travelled to there to receive Accident and Emergency care. The Scottish Ambulance Service has not identified any adverse clinical outcomes as a result of transferring these patients, or as a result of the closure of the Erskine Bridge or local roads. Similarly, an audit that was undertaken after A&E services transferred to the RAH revealed that there was no detrimental clinical impact on patients from the Vale of Leven area as a result of this change.

We do appreciate that relatives, carers and friends want to visit patients receiving care in Paisley. There is already a subsidised bus service (the 340) between the Vale of Leven and Royal Alexandra Hospitals in place to make the journey easier. We propose to promote this service and encourage more people to make use of it.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK...

This consultation was launched on 31st October 2008 and a copy of the full consultation paper can be obtained from our website: www.nhsggc.org.uk/valeofleven or by calling 0800 027 7246 during normal office hours.

If you would like this information in a different language or format (e.g. large print or audio cassette) please contact: 0141 201 4915.

COMMENTS ON ALL ASPECTS OF OUR PROPOSALS ARE WELCOME

Email us...
valeofleven@nhsggc.org.uk

Write to us...
John Hamilton
Head of Board Administration
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
FREEPOST SCO6902
Glasgow
G1 4BR

There is no need to affix a stamp to the envelope.
We are organising **public events during the consultation period:**

**Thursday, 27th November 2008**  
Commodore Hotel, Helensburgh  
2.30 to 4.30pm and 6.30 to 8.30pm

**Monday, 1st December 2008**  
Dumbarton Burgh Hall  
2.30 to 4.30pm and 6.30 to 8.30pm

**Wednesday, 14th January 2009**  
Vale of Leven Academy, Bonhill, Alexandria  
6.30 to 8.30pm only

**Monday, 19th January 2009**  
Dumbarton Burgh Hall  
2.30 to 4.30pm and 6.30 to 8.30pm

**Wednesday, 21st January 2009**  
Commodore Hotel, Helensburgh  
2.30 to 4.30pm and 6.30 to 8.30pm

In all but one of the meetings (Alexandria) we have been able to arrange separate afternoon and evening sessions to ensure as many people as possible can attend.

If you wish to attend any of these meetings, please **register by calling:**  
**0800 027 7246**

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Don’t forget to say if you want to go to the afternoon or evening session.

We appreciate that the timings and format of public meetings will not suit everyone, especially those who prefer to ask questions and make comments informally. For that reason, we are arranging a number of drop-in sessions around the area during the consultation period. There is no need to book a place in advance, simply go to the venue at the time that suits you best.

We will advertise these sessions as soon as they are arranged in the local press, on screens at local health centres and the Vale of Leven Hospital and on our website. You can call **0800 027 7446** at any time to check forthcoming dates.

**THE CONSULTATION WILL END ON 30TH JANUARY 2009**

If you would like this document in Braille or audio-tape format, please contact:

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

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

如果您需要该信息的其它语言版本，请联系：

إذا رغبت في الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بـ:

नेत्रांच्या लम्बूरुळे हिंदी नामक दस्तावेजातील जिसे अंग्रेजी विषयात तुम्ही विश्वास करू शकता म्हणून बघून करा:

آگرآپ یہ معلومات کی اورزبانین میں باسلام کرنا پہنچنے سے تیون پرہام ہیں رابط کریں:

Eğer bu bilgiyi bir başka dilde istiyorsanız lütfen bağlantılı kurunuz:  
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**0141 201 4915**