NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Greater Glasgow and Clyde – Acute Services – North Glasgow Monitoring Group held at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 17th November 2006 in the Corporate Meeting Room North Glasgow CHCP Offices, Stobhill Hospital, 300 Balgrayhill Road, Glasgow G21 3UR

PRESENT:

Mr Ian Miller (in the Chair)
Dr Robert Cumming
Dr Roger Hughes
Mr Paul Martin MSP
Mr John McMeekin
Ms Mary Murray
Professor D E S Stewart-Tull
Dr Jean Turner MSP

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Robert Calderwood .. Chief Operating Officer, Acute Services Division
Mr John C Hamilton .. Head of Board Administration – NHS Board
Mr Mark McAllister .. Community Engagement Manager – NHS Board
Mrs Isobel Neil .. General Manager – Beatson Oncology Centre
Professor Alan Rodger .. Medical Director, Beatson Oncology Centre

ACTION BY

27. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed Professor Alan Rodger, Medical Director, and Mrs Isobel Neil, General Manager, Beatson Oncology Centre to this Special Meeting of the North Monitoring Group to discuss the future provision of Chemotherapy Services north of the river.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs E King, Dr R Milroy and Dr P Ryan.

28. CHEMOTHERAPY SERVICES

The Chair reminded members that at the last meeting of the Group on 15 September 2006 there was concern at the centralisation of chemotherapy services for the north of the river in the new Beatson Oncology Centre, Gartnavel, and the impact this would have on patients from the north-east of the city and beyond. The Chair asked Professor Rodger to provide the Group with the background to this plan.

Professor Rodger explained that following a Review of Cancer Services across the West of Scotland in 2002 by his predecessor there was an identified need, due to an increasing demand, for sub-specialisation in cancer services.
A range of options were considered by the five West of Scotland NHS Boards and the future shape of cancer services was to be based on the provision of specialist clinics for lung, breast, colorectal, GU and the creation of a new build Regional Centre for tumours. This was to lead to a better use of the facilities available and hospitals would be identified in Lanarkshire, Ayrshire and Arran, Clyde and Forth Valley to be the main local cancer centres. Consultants could then be located in central clinics for tumours and haematology/oncology/bone marrow transplantation which would be located at the new West of Scotland Beatson Oncology Centre (which would see the transfer of services from the Royal Infirmary and some out-patient clinics from Stobhill). The same services would be provided south of the river from the Southern General and chemotherapy out-patient clinics from the ambulatory care hospital at the new Victoria Hospital.

The safety of chemotherapy services to patients and the correct staffing mix covering medical, nursing and pharmacists was critical and therefore elements of centralisation of such services was essential – more locally delivered care was desirable as long as it was delivered to patients safely.

The Group had been aware of the transfer of specialist oncology services from Stobhill to the Royal Infirmary about 2 years.

Professor Rodger commended the West of Scotland Plan for cancer services and advised that the review was driven by a need to bring about better services for patients and their future care.

The Chair thanked Professor Rodger for his clear description of the Cancer Review and invited questions from members. The following areas of concern were raised:-

- What arrangements had been put in place for patients travelling to the new Beatson Oncology Centre?

  Professor Rodger advised of the wide range of chemotherapy services now being treated and the impact of greater numbers of patients accessing these services. Transport had regularly been discussed at the West of Scotland Regional Cancer meetings – transport was available by ambulance, ambulance cars, volunteer drivers, good public transport links were available at the new Beatson Oncology Centre for both buses and trains and efforts were being made to try and ensure free car parking (adjacent to the entrance to the building) for those accessing chemotherapy services. The services were planned to be delivered from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

  Members were aware that the bus companies have withdrawn a number of services to Stobhill. Strategic communities were being identified for the 3 main future hospital locations (Southern General, Royal Infirmary and Gartnavel). Fastlink services have been launched in Glasgow and efforts will continue to be made to address transport links as they are identified.

- Any impact on services by the Modernising Medical Careers initiative?

  Professor Rodger advised that this national initiative would change significantly the way training of doctors was carried out and it was operating within a tight timescale. The rotation of doctors across Scotland was likely to have an impact on doctors in training as they balanced career and family commitments.
Why were chemotherapy services being retained in the new Victoria Ambulatory Care Hospital and not Stobhill?

Mr Calderwood spoke of the consultation on the future provision of Acute Services in 2000/01 and the West of Scotland Cancer Plan seeking the creation of teams of specialists and cancer networks. The re-design of cancer services saw the need for two centres for chemotherapy services – one in the south of the river and one in the north. The former North Acute Trust preferred the model of centralising all the cancer services in the new West of Scotland Beatson Oncology Centre. The former South Acute Trust saw the in-patient provision at the Southern General and the out-patients chemotherapy at the new Victoria Hospital.

With the creation of multi-disciplinary teams, clinical opinion has reaffirmed this model.

Will the clinical and non-clinical services to patients actually improve?

Professor Rodger advised that he believed they would. Better outcomes and access to specialists was important. However, the provision of services from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. will assist (although the early evening appointments have not yet proved popular for patients); car parking (hopefully free) at the entrance to the building; getting the patients’ blood tests and pre-medication determined early can assist the patient journey and care plan; booking patients in at times that suit their travel and other arrangements was a challenge but an important priority for the booking staff and the overnight beds at the local hotel assists with patients from further afield.

GP’s role and IT improvements

Professor Rodger advised that GP surgeries take the blood sample, but the BOC were responsible for the action on the results and computing the results to the hospital had been working well.

The Chair thanked Professor Rodger and Isobel Neil for attending and giving such a comprehensive description of the future of cancer services within the West of Scotland and for answering all members’ questions.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Group would be held at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 1st December 2006 in the Corporate Meeting Room, North Glasgow Division Office, 300 Balgrayhill Road, Glasgow, G21 3UR.

The meeting ended at 11.05 a.m.