WHY THERE IS A NEED FOR THE INTEGRATIVE CARE MODEL PROVIDED & THE PATIENT VIEW WHY THIS PATIENT SERVICE MUST BE RETAINED

The reasons patients attend the Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital (GHH) and Centre of Integrative Care are multifaceted like the many and varied patients and conditions that are treated within this healing haven. The patients who attend have complex, chronic often incurable and debilitating illness and disease, which results in complicated care needs, and affects the patient and as a result their families at many different levels, not just the physical. The patients need the full complement of in-patient beds to be made available to them throughout the year, in order that they can access the care at the G.H.H, with its full medical backup when they require it, as there is a current void in care elsewhere. In testimony to this, patients are willing to travel to this unique and innovative unit from all over the U.K. as it is a world renowned specialist centre.

If its service is withdrawn G.G.H.B will be responsible for the patients who depend and rely on this care, and who have exhausted all conventional forms of treatment made available to them, or choose not access them, seeking treatments elsewhere. This will result in increased costs to the NHS as a whole, as patients will renter the very system that has previously failed them, and which is already over burdened. Patients are highly satisfied with the care they receive in the G.H.H, and in trying to access care elsewhere, patients will also be forced to seek the help of unregulated practitioners. The need for this type of care will not diminish as patients have no other alternative in their quest for health.

The G.H.H is a safe place where those who receive the 'Integrative Care' that it provides trust the staff, who have both an initial grounding in conventional training with additional complementary qualifications in a variety of other therapies. So patients, their carers and referring doctors know that they are receiving truly holistic care and the best of 'both worlds', within an NHS setting, that then makes it available for all to access.

Once referred and then assessed, patients access the intensive therapeutic treatment and care provided at this unit in a variety of ways that are agreed with them by their practitioners. The main aim is prevention and health promotion, thus being able to avert a crisis from occurring in the first place or if not to respond immediately to that crisis, by the best means available dependant on individual patient need. This can include admission to the unit requiring an overnight stay, and is carried out only when it is unavoidable, as each individual has complex care needs, this is best judged patient, their carers and the practitioners who know them.

The patient and their carers who live with the unpredictability of disease in their life, are the best people to know when medical intervention is necessitated in conjunction
with their medical practitioners. Without the availability of this response managed by
the G.H.H, and which is not currently being met effectively and efficiently by general
hospital and community care, thus causing increased personal, social, health and
welfare costs. As a result of referral to the G.H.H the patient and their carers are
taught the essential coping skills to minimise a crisis from occurring and to educate
them when this must be instigated. It can take years to piece together shattered
lives, and all the agencies and practitioners in touch with the patient both in hospital
and community have a duty of care which is initiated initially by the patient as they
have a responsibility to keep themselves well. The multidisciplinary team in the
G.H.H work in conjunction with the patient and their carers so that the treatment plan
can be compiled in order that each individual can reach their true potential even with
the limitations that their disease places upon them. This reportedly gives the family
respite, but for the patient it is intensive therapeutic treatment, that maximises
healing and minimises the negativity that disease creates. The patient then achieve
their maximum health which then has a positive effect on their contribution to their
family and society while hopefully cutting the costly cycle of healthcare interventions.
So everybody wins as a result.

The aim of the treatment is always to complement the care that the patient is
receiving, from the primary and secondary health care they are accessing, in
conjunction with their community care packages in place and endeavours to prevent
acute interventions. As patient care is fragmented in this way with many practitioners
and agencies involved, often including numerous medical specialities due to their
complex problems, the G.H.H provides a holistic overview of patient care. The
purpose is to ensure that the maximum therapeutic value is being delivered from
both conventional and complementary care by the minimum of interventions. Patients
receive the best and most cost effective care when compared with the current
conventional provision, currently due to the finite resources and infinite demand.
Only limited packages of care are available within the community. This is
demonstrated particularly with physiotherapy services, as in order to keep
functioning the patient needs treatment on a more constant and regular basis, this is
just not available and the intensive treatment and other therapeutic interventions
while an inpatient in the G.H.H is essential. The specialist nursing skills this unit
employs enhances the medical care provided, so that the patient has the 24 hour
back-up and support administered within a controlled medical environment, as the
therapeutic process can result in unexpected interventions being required. This
cannot be delivered as effectively through out-patient or day case provision as its
intensity and therapeutic value would immediately be lost.

The construction of the G.H.H was assisted in the first place by the financial
contribution of patients and charitable funds. The patients therefore oppose any
reduction of the current service and wish the holistic ethos that is evident in the
G.H.H was available throughout the N.H.S as they know and have experienced its
value and recognise its true worth.