

## Greater Glasgow NHS Board

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, 21 January, 2003

Board Paper No. 03/5



Head of Board Administration, GGNHSB  
Convener, Local Health Council

## Membership of the Greater Glasgow Health Council

### Recommendation:

The NHS Board is asked:-

- i) to note the revised membership of Greater Glasgow Health Council;
- ii) approve offering the 10 members whose appointment is to 31 March 2003 a 12-month extension to 31 March 2004.

### Background:

1. This paper sets out two issues in relation to the membership of the Local Health Council.
2. The first issue relates to the filling of five casual vacancies which have arisen in the last few months. The second seeks the NHS Board's approval to offering extended membership to those members whose terms of office are due to expire on 31 March 2003, in light of the forthcoming consultation paper on the future structure of public involvement and its effect on Local Health Councils.

### Casual Vacancies

3. Under the Establishment Scheme for Health Councils approved by Scottish Ministers, the Local Health Council in Greater Glasgow has 20 members who are appointed by the NHS Board. In April 2001 the former Greater Glasgow Health Board had endorsed the membership of the Health Council, effective from 1 April 2001.
4. Over the last few months, due to various reasons, five casual vacancies arose.
5. Following consideration given to those previous applicants held on a reserve list, the vacancies were advertised.
6. The procedure adopted for the appointment to the five casual vacancies was in line with that which the former Health Board had previously endorsed; namely:

An interview panel comprising –

Peter Hamilton, Convener, Greater Glasgow Health Council

Caroline McCalman, Vice Convener, Greater Glasgow Health Council

Carla Carmichael, Secretariat Officer, Greater Glasgow NHS Board (representing the Head of Board Administration)

7. The interview panel met and interviewed fourteen new nominations and five appointments were made as follows:

- 2 new members for a term to 31 March 2003 (Edward Harkins)  
(Jane Stephen)
  - 3 new members for a term to 31 March 2005 (Gordon Connell)  
(Patricia Munro)  
(Maureen O'Neill)
8. The revised membership list is attached for information and the new members are marked with an asterisk.

**Extended Membership**

9. As members will see from the attached list of Health Council members, half the members have their period of appointment to 31 March 2003 – including the current Convener and Vice Convener. Normally by this time the officers at the NHS Board and the Convener of the LHC would be well down a recruitment process for new members. However, this has not been the case this year as we await the consultation paper on the future structure of public involvement organisations and the proposals are likely to have an effect on the future role, remit and make-up of Health Councils. The consultation document is due from the Scottish Executive Health Department this month with a three-month consultation period.
10. Indications are that it is possible that any new arrangements will be in place from 1 April 2004. Clearly the NHS Board and Health Council need to consider the issue of membership from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004, particularly as 10 Health Council members' terms of appointment are due to end on 31 March 2003.
11. The Local Health Council has discussed the issue and three options were identified:
- i) offering the existing members whose term of appointment is to 31 March 2003 a twelve-month extension;
  - ii) take no action to fill the vacancies and operate with 10 vacancies from 1 April 2003; (this would hinder the Health Council's ability to function adequately)
  - iii) advertise the 10 vacancies and appoint members to 31 March 2004. (it is unlikely that new members will be attracted to a 12-month appointment and may be unable to fully contribute much to the work of the Health Council)
12. Of these 10 members, 7 members have served one term and would be eligible for re-appointment; 3 members have served two full terms and normally would not be eligible to continue.
13. The Health Council, by a majority view, supported option i) and the NHS Board is asked to approve the Head of Board Administration writing to each of the 10 affected members offering them a 12-month extension to their appointments (to 31 March 2004) in order to try and ensure the smooth continued operation of the Health Council's work and responsibilities.

John C Hamilton  
Head of Board Administration  
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