

Greater Glasgow NHS Board

**Board Meeting
Tuesday, 21st October, 2003**

Board Paper No. 03/63

**Chief Executive, GGNHSB
Medical Director, Beatson Oncology Centre**

BEATSON ONCOLOGY CENTRE - ACTION PLAN

Recommendation: The Board is asked to:

- i) receive this further update on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Group;
- ii) consider whether it is now timely to ask the Minister for Health and Community Care to return the Centre to management within the North Glasgow University Hospitals NHS Trust.

1. Context

- 1.1 In the report presented to the NHS Board at its meeting on 17th June, 2003, a full update was given of the progress in taking forward the Action Plan which was developed from the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Group. That update showed that substantial progress had been made in implementing all of the key recommendations within that report with the exception of the specific recommendation made about restoring the numbers of Consultant Clinical Oncologists to their level prior the resignations tendered in autumn 2001. A further recent appointment has been made, with discussions continuing with other potential candidates for both clinical and medical oncology posts.
- 1.2 That paper contained also the suggestion that, if progress in stabilising the position within the Centre continued, the Board should consider in the autumn of 2003 whether it should ask the Minister for Health and Community Care to return the full management responsibility for the Beatson Oncology Centre to the North Glasgow Trust. This paper sets out, therefore, the basis on which the Board should consider that proposition.

2. The Management Arrangements Proposed

- 2.1 A key recommendation of the Expert Advisory Group was that a Medical Director be appointed to the Centre. Professor Alan Rodger was appointed to the post of Medical Director in late 2002 and took up post on 2nd June, 2003. Professor Rodger has, therefore, had the opportunity over the past four months to establish himself and to develop working arrangements with his senior colleagues within the Beatson Oncology Centre. Professor Rodger feels that it is timely to return the full management responsibility of the Centre to the North Glasgow Trust.

EMBARGOED UNTIL DATE OF MEETING.

- 2.2 The Expert Advisory Group recommended that the Beatson Oncology Centre should operate as a discrete Division within the Trust: it made the point also that this Division should encompass the responsibility for Haemato-Oncological Services within North Glasgow. Thus, it is proposed that an expanded Division should be created over the coming months as part of the arrangements for taking forward the implementation of the “Partnership for Care” White Paper. There is strong support among the affected Clinicians for the integration of the Haemato-Oncological Services within this expanded Division.
- 2.3 The post of Medical Director within the Beatson Oncology Centre is a unique post, in that it constitutes a full-time appointment as Medical Director. It is proposed that, in that role, Professor Rodger should have a direct line of accountability to the Trust Chief Executive. The internal working arrangements within this expanded Division will see a General Manager work alongside and support the Medical Director in discharging aspects of his management and budgetary responsibilities. The Medical Director and the Trust Chief Executive are both content with this model.
3. Next Steps
- 3.1 The Board is asked to determine whether the Minister for Health and Community Care should be asked to restore the full management responsibility for the services delivered from the Beatson Oncology Centre to the North Glasgow Trust, with the proposal that the decision comes into effect from the point of the Minister’s decision.

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