

Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday 16th February 2010

Board Paper No. 2010/04

Director of Corporate Planning and Policy/Lead NHS Director Glasgow City CHCPs

PROPOSAL FOR HOMELESSNESS PARTNERSHIP

Recommendation:

The Board is asked to:

- **agree to the dissolution of the Homelessness Partnership on the basis of the migration of it's responsibilities into Community Health and Care Partnerships.**

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Homelessness Partnership is a formal partnership between the NHS and Glasgow City Council which has direct responsibility for the delivery of NHS services and NHS staff. It was established to drive forward the closure of the large hostels and the development of specialist health and social care services to their highly vulnerable residents.
- 1.2 The City Council indicated in August 2009 that it wished to carry out a review of the structure of the Homelessness Partnership. The NHS agreed to participate in the review on the basis that its outcome would be reported back to the Joint Partnership Board (JPB).
- 1.3 A report prepared for the Council's Executive Committee was submitted to the November JPB recommending the dissolution of the Partnership and the migration of a number of its functions into Social Work Centre. The paper was silent on the future arrangements for the NHS services the Partnership manages. The JPB considered a further paper which set out the perspective of the NHS on the Council's conclusions and agreed that there needed to be further consultation with the NHS on these issues.
- 1.4 At its December meeting the JPB accepted a report from the NHS Lead Director and CHCP Directors which proposed that the responsibilities of the Partnership migrate to CHCPs with a host CHCP arrangement for specialist services. On that basis the JPB agreed to support the dissolution of the Partnership subject to approval by the NHS Board. The purpose of this paper is to seek that approval.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 CHCP Directors developed detailed proposals to implement these changes which were agreed at the January joint Executive Group, subject to identifying which CHCP will act as the host.
- 2.2 The agreed proposals included a CHCP Director assuming responsibility for the development and delivery of homelessness services in Glasgow. That responsibility would be reflected in the Director's personal objectives. The Director would lead on the homelessness service performance review arrangements and lead on homelessness issues at both the NHS and Social Work senior management team and Executive arrangements. The host CHCP would have additional management capacity to deliver its responsibilities although the synergy with CHCP support functions which will enable a reduction in management costs. The Executive Group also discussed the devolution of services to asylum seekers into a host CHCP. Services to asylum seekers have significant overlap with homeless services in terms of accommodation, vulnerability and other issues. Further, this potential shift would ensure integration of NHS and Social Work services and synergy with the wider responsibilities of CHCPs.
- 2.3 Directors final proposals will be reported to the JPB for approval.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 There are clear benefits to dissolving the homeless partnership to reflect the:-
- completion of the hostel closure programme;
 - revised service devolution arrangements for CHCPs;
 - devolution of responsibility for commissioning to CHCPs;
 - move to leadership of planning by CHCP Directors.
- 3.2 However, those benefits only apply if, as in the proposals agreed by the JPB and the joint Executive Group, the responsibilities of the Partnership are migrated to the CHCPs. This ensures continued service integration, synergies with support services provided within CHCPs, alignment of service delivery and planning leadership and offers the additional benefit of better alignment to the delivery and commissioning of other services for vulnerable people which will be the responsibility of CHCPs.

Publication: The content of this Paper may be published following the meeting

Author: Catriona Renfrew, Director of Corporate Planning and Policy/Lead NHS Director Glasgow City CHCPs