

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

**NHS Board Meeting
15th August 2017**

Board Paper No: 17/46

Director of Property, Procurement and Facilities Management

Review of Fire Precautions and Cladding – Update

Recommendation:

The NHS Board is asked to note this update.

1. Background

The NHS Board is asked to note this update.

- 1.1** The Director of Property, Procurement and Facilities Management provided an update to the 27 June 2017 NHS Board meeting and 1st August 2017 NHS Board Seminar on the review carried out of the NHS Board's estate in relation to the lessons learned to date from the Grenfell Tower disaster. The review had included all buildings within the NHS Board and HSCPs and has continued to be ongoing as new information and issues have emerged which required additional investigations.
- 1.2** Over the last few weeks there have been forensic examinations of buildings and technical teams have had to assess all types of materials used in cladding across the entire estate and have followed a rigorous process in doing this work. It has been a fast moving and evolving situation and further issues may emerge in future which require consideration as more information is made available to organisations.
- 1.3** On 8th August 2017, the fourth meeting of the Ministerial Working Group on Building and Fire Safety took place. This national Group is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Angela Constance and involved the Housing Minister, Kevin Stewart, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Shona Robison, Scottish Government officials, Health Facilities - Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- 1.4** The Group was updated on the latest actions taken by the Scottish Government, local authorities, the NHS, the fire and rescue service as well as other building owners across the country, including continued progress made by the fire and rescue service in carrying out fire safety visits.
- 1.5** As part of the update on the further forensic checks which took place across Scotland, including the NHS estate, the Group heard that some Aluminium Composite Material (ACM), similar to the type used at Grenfell Tower, but not the

same, had recently been identified at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow (QEUH). The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service reassured Ministers that as part of its regular risk based audit programme, it had carried out fire safety audits within the QEUH, and these were found to be satisfactory.

- 1.6 The QEUH has been designed and engineered to meet Building and Fire Safety Regulations. Health Facilities Scotland and their National Fire Advisor have given Board Officers renewed assurances that the hospital is an extremely safe building. Firm assurances have also been given by the main contractor and their design team and the Board's technical advisers that the regulatory process has been followed and that the appropriate Building Standards Completion Certificates are in place.
- 1.7 However, as a precautionary measure, and to make sure the public, patients and staff have full confidence in the safety of the QEUH, the NHS Board officers took the decision to remove the panels from the areas of the hospital where these panels are located. The panels to be removed are present in three external sections of the building and Officers are currently working with contractors and technical advisers to assess how this work can proceed at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 1.8 Further investigations continue with the external advisers and with Health Facilities Scotland along with the main hospital contractor and to date there is no indication of other cladding issues.
- 1.9 Detailed technical work is on-going to establish the best way to remove and replace the ACMs. It is expected that the impact on patient activity will be minimal and hospital management teams are preparing contingencies while they await details of how the work will need to be taken forward.

2 **Conclusion**

The NHS Board will receive regular updates on progress on this issue, which will include at the October 2017 NHS Board meeting, an update on the plan to remove the relevant cladding.

3. **Recommendation:**

The NHS Board is asked to note this update.

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