

# Report of Secretary for Scotland to Guild Council Meeting 1/4/09

## Group Meetings

I am not aware of any group meetings having taken place since my last report.

## In the Press

**20.01.09** - Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon unveiled details of the 3-year National Delivery Plan for Children and Young People's Specialist Services, which is backed by £32 million of additional investment, during a visit to the *Royal Hospital for Sick Children* at *Yorkhill* in Glasgow. Following the biggest-ever review of these services in Scotland, the Plan details a number of recommendations to improve care for children and young people with conditions such as Cancer, Cystic Fibrosis or gastric disorders like Crohn's Disease.

**21.01.09** - The contribution and commitment of NHS Scotland staff, supported by investment in their future and wellbeing, is essential to the delivery of better healthcare for Scotland according to Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon. Five ambitions for Scotland's health service to help it address the key workforce challenges for 21st century have been published by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland. The ambitions form the focus of *A Force for Improvement: The Workforce Response to Better Health, Better Care*. This highlights both the role the workforce can play in delivering better care and work to improve the investment in staff training, development and wellbeing.

**26.01.09** - Health workers were warned that there's no excuse for failing to comply with hand hygiene procedures as the Scottish Government launched a zero tolerance policy to non compliance across NHS Scotland. The policy is contained in new guidance issued to NHS Boards and the launch coincided with the latest phase of Scotland's hand hygiene media campaign which aims to raise public awareness of the importance of regular hand washing.

**27.01.09** - Tens of thousands of patients previously excluded from waiting times targets will be treated within 18 weeks. New guidance sets out the principles and definitions of the 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment waiting times standard to be delivered by 2011. This will increase the number of patients to whom the standard will apply, including 80,000 patients who access audiology services. To date waiting times targets for first outpatient appointments applied solely to referrals from a GP, dentist or optometrist. Now, Scotland's 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment Standard is to be extended to ensure that patients who are referred between Consultants, specialist nurses, ophthalmic opticians, orthoptists or from A&E departments will be included. The commitment will also cover audiology services.

**28.01.09** - The first six monthly analysis of the impact of reducing prescription charges has shown that double the number of Prescription Pre-Payment Certificates (PPCs) were bought by patients in Scotland following a 51 per cent cut in price introduced by the Scottish Government last April.

**03.02.09** - Hospital staff are facing a blanket ban on smoking at any time while they are in uniform - or even wearing an NHS badge - under a crackdown proposed by officials at NHS Grampian. The zero-tolerance policy will apply to all 18,000 staff employed.

**05.02.09** - New figures show that Lothian has more than 2000 people who have tested positive, and despite having less than a fifth of the Scottish population, the Lothians have almost half of all the country's cases with one new HIV case found every 3 days.

**09.02.09** - Scotland's NHS boards are to share record funding of more than £8.64 billion next year. The total includes nearly £400 million for NHS capital projects such as buildings, IT and equipment, which will help boost sectors of the economy hit hardest by the recession. The bulk of the £8.64 billion for NHS Boards in 2009-10 is made up of revenue funding for NHS health boards - money needed for the day-to-day running of the health service.

	<b>Total allocation 2009-10 (m)</b>	<b>Revenue (m)</b>	<b>Capital (m)</b>
Territorial Health Boards	7,247.9		329.0
Special Health Boards	1,009.8		55.7
Territorial and Special	8,257.7		384.7

<b>Territorial NHS Board</b>	<b>Revenue Allocation 2009-10 (m)</b>	<b>Capital Allocation 2009-10 (m)</b>
Ayrshire & Arran	557.2	21.8
Borders	162.2	6.1
Dumfries & Galloway	232.9	9.2
Fife	490.3	18.4
Forth Valley	383.9	14.8
Grampian	660.7	29.8
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	1,825.0	98.9
Highland	469.6	18.9
Lanarkshire	777.4	30.0
Lothian	987.1	52.3
Orkney	30.5	0.9
Shetland	35.9	1.0
Tayside	578.6	25.0
Western Isles	56.6	1.9
Total	7,247.9	329.0

<b>Special Health Boards</b>	<b>Revenue Allocation 2009-10 (M)</b>	<b>Capital Allocation 2009-10 (m)</b>
Scottish Ambulance Service	189.2	6.0
National Services Scotland	264.3	13.2
NHS 24	56.0	1.6
State Hospitals Board	34.8	6.6
National Waiting Times Centre	41.3	26.6
NHS Education	389.1	1.7
NHS Health Scotland	18.3	0
NHS Quality Improvement	16.8	0
Total	1,009.8	55.7

**18.02.09** - Cancer waiting times are now shorter than ever but they still miss the target. Figures for July to September last year show 94.6 per cent of those diagnosed began treatment within two months - 10 per cent more than at the start of 2007.

## **Scottish Regional Health Sector Committee 20.3.09**

This was the last meeting of the present Committee. A new Committee will be elected at the Health Sector Conference to be arranged in April. There was discussion on the handover of issues to the new Committee.

**Meeting with Cabinet Secretary 12.11.08:** There was a report of the meeting and Michael Fuller is to circulate the letter sent to Nicola Sturgeon after the meeting and set up another meeting with her.

**Recruitment and organisation:** There have been two invitations to run Unite courses for new reps.

**UK NHS Reports:** The last meeting of the national committee had been very productive. A campaign plan to stop privatisation in the NHS is being prepared. There were discussions on pay, and on-call.

**SPF & SWAG:** There had been no recent meetings of either body. Nottingham University is investigating partnership in Scotland as it is the longest-running partnership working in existence. There was discussion on the reorganisation of scrutiny bodies such as QIS and the Care Commission and on the healthcare services in prisons moving to the NHS. Most Boards will fail at the end of March on the implementation of KSF and PDPs.

**Annual leave and sick leave:** There was discussion on an Opinion provided by The Advocate General of the European Court of Justice in January 2008 which states that a worker cannot designate a period of sick leave as holiday, and he accrues leave and must be compensated for leave accrued and untaken at the end of employment, even if this means carrying leave forward into the new holiday year, after a full or partial year of absence. The judgment concludes that, since the Working Time Directive does not distinguish between workers who are absent from work on sick leave and those who have in fact worked during the course of the year, it must be implemented by Member States without any preconditions. On that basis, a worker cannot be deprived of the right to annual leave when he or she has not had the opportunity to exercise it. A worker who has been absent for the whole of the employer's holiday year and any carry-over period has been denied the opportunity to exercise his or her right to paid holiday. As such, the right to holiday pay is not extinguished at the end of the holiday year or carry-over period. The Court concluded that the same rationale must apply to the annual leave entitlement of a worker who has been absent for part of the holiday year. In this case the limit of carrying a maximum of 5 days leave is not enforceable.

**Pensions:** The Period of Choice to decide whether to transfer to the new pension scheme or stay with the current scheme has been set for October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 – January 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. Advice and benefits statements should be issued in September.

## **Review of NHS Production in Scotland**

A further meeting of the Project Board on 2<sup>nd</sup> February took place but there were issues with the draft final paper circulated before the meeting. Discussions to resolve matters are ongoing.

## **Draft Pharmacy Order 2009 Consultation Event, Edinburgh 11.2.09**

I attended this meeting to discuss the Draft Pharmacy Order and the composition and role of the General Pharmaceutical Council.

### **AfC**

Annex R of the Agenda for Change terms and conditions has still not been implemented in Greater Glasgow & Clyde. A number of pharmacists have taken out grievances against management.

### **Other**

I have dealt with a number of member queries and a couple of new membership applications.

Colin Rodden

26.3.09