

Report of Secretary for Scotland to Guild Council Meeting 10/7/12

Group Meetings

There have been no local meetings since my last report to Council.

In the Press

24/5/2012 The Scottish Government submitted evidence to the independent UK pay review bodies which challenged the coalition government's economic case for regional pay. Scottish Ministers have previously made clear that the Scottish Government will not implement local market facing pay in Scotland and does not support the UK Government's proposal. The Scottish Government is also concerned that such a policy may be used as a vehicle to cut spending in certain parts of the UK with a negative impact on many areas in Scotland.

29/05/2012 New figures published by ISD show that 91.5 per cent of patients whose entire journey could be measured were seen and treated within 18 weeks from initial GP referral to start of treatment. All health boards - except NHS Lothian - are meeting the 90 per cent target which came into force on 31 December 2011. More patients - 346,999 - attended an appointment during quarter ending 31 March than any previous quarter.

29/5/2012 An Audit Scotland report stated that Scotland had made good progress in reducing the numbers of people affected by heart disease, including a reduction in deaths, and that the NHS could save at least £4 million a year by making cardiology services more efficient. More than 182,000 people in Scotland - 3.3% of the country's population - have heart disease and it kills more than 8,000 people a year. Death rates have fallen by 40% in 10 years, more patients are getting better treatment and waiting times for treatment have reduced.

29/05/2012 The NHS in Scotland is well on its way to delivering the four week delayed discharge target, more than 11 months ahead of schedule. Figures published by ISD show that at the latest April census only 108 patients were delayed for over four weeks, the lowest number since recording began in 2000. This compares with 418 patients delayed over four weeks at April 2007. The average wait is now 20 days compared to 49 in April 2007.

29/5/2012 Statistics on NHS staff show an overall workforce of 131,172 - a reduction of 102 wte or 0.1 per cent - on the previous quarter. There are 56,467 wte nursing and midwifery staff in post - an increase of 229 - and 24,297 wte administrative posts - a reduction of 204 from December 31 to March 31. The number of consultants, psychologists and allied health professionals have increased during this period. The report also highlights the use of agency nurses in the NHS has decreased by 10 per cent over the last year while the use of the nursing bank has increased by 3 per cent.

12/6/2012 A new framework for managing and learning from adverse events in the NHS is to be put in place across Scotland. Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) have published a review of NHS Ayrshire and Arran's management of adverse events. The review, requested by Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon, made a number of recommendations for the board. These have been

accepted and the board have published an improvement plan which will address the recommendations as a matter of urgency. The report also highlighted areas for national learning and made recommendations for NHSScotland. In light of this a national framework will be developed to support improvement and a more consistent approach to managing and learning from such events will be made available to all health boards.

The new framework will be developed by HIS for NHSScotland and will consider:

- involvement and engagement with the patient and their family
- the support for the staff involved
- the reporting and operational management of the adverse event and
- the organisational learning and improvement that needs to take place as a result.

12/6/2012 Nicola Sturgeon said targets could be brought in to reduce the number of times a patient is moved in hospital after a Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh survey suggested patients were routinely taken from specialist wards and boarded elsewhere. She has asked the Chief Medical Officer Sir Harry Burns to meet doctors' representatives to discuss the matter. The college's online survey was completed by 21% of the Royal College's members - some 290 doctors and consultants - and conducted between 22 and 30 May, following approaches from a number of hospital consultants concerned at the level of both admissions and boarding in their areas.

29/6/12 The Health & Sport Committee published its report on NHS budgets, noting a "lack of clarity" over how health boards spend public money. The report also states that while NHS savings are important, quality and consistency of service must be maintained. The Committee will look at the issue of quality services in its next round of scrutiny, and has confirmed that the role of the third sector will also be explored.

29/6/12 The National Audit Office published its report on healthcare across the UK, highlighting key trends in service delivery in different areas. It highlighted that Scotland has the highest number of GPs per head and that waiting times are lower in England and Scotland than in other nations. The report also showed variation in life expectancy across the UK, from 75.9 in Scotland to 78.6 in England for men, and from 80.4 in Scotland to 82.6 in England for women.

6/7/12 The Public Audit Committee has submitted a response to the Scottish Government's consultation on proposals for the integration of health and social care. The Committee is calling on the Scottish Government to ensure its plans are underpinned by transparency and accountability. The Committee also welcomed the proposals for a single, jointly accountable officer for each partnership, but warned that accountability may be problematic given the officer will remain separately accountable to the local authority and NHS board.

6/7/2012 Healthcare Improvement Scotland has published quality indicators for primary care out-of-hours services. Their focus is on response times, accuracy of triage for home visits, effective information exchange, implementation of national clinical standards, antimicrobial prescribing and patient experience.

Review of NHS Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community – Scotland

A meeting to provide oral evidence was attended on 30th May. A further stakeholder meeting is to take place on 23rd August.

Unlicensed Medicines Review

Work continues on the business case for a single site for the manufacture of unlicensed medicines in Scotland.

Notes of Unite meeting 3rd May 2012

Pensions: The main committee looking at pensions and Scotland met once and set up a subcommittee which has had several meetings. Unfortunately, the Cabinet secretary has had communication from Danny Alexander at the Treasury to inform her that no significant differences to the UK pension scheme will be allowed. There is no chance of different pension ages and any other changes to the scheme would have to be approved by the Treasury – and this was unlikely to be forthcoming. There is a meeting of the STAC pensions subgroup in the next couple of weeks.

On-call: Ballot papers will be issued on 9 July to be returned by 1 August. If you have not received a ballot paper then you should contact one of the three names on the attached document.

Unite is to advise rejection of the offer, as they consider it is not a good deal. The availability payment is a cut for many staff. The offer also removes the guaranteed minimum period paid to many staff for callouts. In future, they will only be paid for the time out of the house. Unite is balloting all of its 12,500 NHS workers in Scotland, whether or not they currently participate in on-call. The rationale for this is that they may well participate in future and it will be their terms and conditions that are being affected. If the offer is rejected by all the unions, then Unite will be recommending a ballot to withdraw from all on-call. The ballot paper will be sent out with a copy of the management offer and a letter from Gordon Casey, Regional Officer, on why members should vote no.

New Unite branch structure: the new structure for the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Branch is now in place.

Prescribing Review

The Secondary and Primary Care Interface Subgroup has yet to meet.

Other

I have dealt with a number of member queries, several new membership and new PII applications.

Colin Rodden
9.7.12