

Report of Secretary for Scotland to Guild Council Meeting 3/7/13

Group Meetings

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

In the Press

20/05/13 A free, confidential phone line for NHS Scotland staff who wish to raise any concerns about practices in NHS Scotland has received 34 calls from Scotland since it was launched in April. 23 calls anonymously raised concerns about NHS practices while 11 calls related to personnel or contractual matters. 19 calls were also received from health workers in other parts of the UK excluding Scotland. All of the concerns that employees raised were reportedly passed on to the relevant authority for further investigation. Figures on the alert line will be published quarterly on the Scottish Government website.

04/06/13 Up to £200,000 is to be made available to health boards to fund projects that tackle bullying and harassment in the workplace. The funding will be to further expand the 'dignity at work toolkit', which aims to make sure that all NHS staff feel valued, are being listened to and are being treated with respect. Health Secretary Alex Neil made the announcement ahead of the 'Whistleblowing - raising concerns within the NHS Scotland' conference, which is joint funded by Scottish Government and the Scottish Patients Association. He was also expected to confirm in his conference speech that NHS Scotland does not support or condone 'gagging orders' on staff who raise any concerns about patient safety. He wrote to all health boards on 22 February 2013 reminding them that confidentiality clauses are not used to prevent staff reporting concerns about practice in the NHS in Scotland.

04/06/13 Health board catchment boundaries will be aligned with local authority areas to help them work closer together in the provision of care in the local community and help ensure older people can receive the care they need at home. The announcement came the week after a new bill designed to ensure that the health and social care systems work together effectively to improve the provision of care in our communities was published. The boundary changes will come into effect from April 2014. Patients will stay with the same GP practice and continue to receive treatment in their local hospital, even if their catchment area has changed. It is reported that in most health board areas less than 300 patients will be affected by the change, although over 72,000 patients will be transferred from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to NHS Lanarkshire, with around 1600 moving the opposite way (see table over).

	People transferred out	Receiving NHS Board	People transferred in	From NHS Board
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	9	NHS Dumfries and Galloway		
	21	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde		
NHS Borders			46	NHS Lothian
NHS Dumfries & Galloway			9	NHS Ayrshire & Arran

	People transferred out	Receiving NHS Board	People transferred in	From NHS Board
NHS Fife			44	NHS Tayside
NHS Forth Valley	151	NHS Tayside	225	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
			101	NHS Lothian
NHS Grampian	<i>NO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY BOUNDARY CHANGE</i>			
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	72,172	NHS Lanarkshire	1,657	NHS Lanarkshire
	225	NHS Forth Valley	21	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
NHS Highland	<i>NO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY BOUNDARY CHANGE</i>			
NHS Lanarkshire	1,657	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	72,172	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
	259	NHS Lothian		
NHS Lothian	46	NHS Borders	259	NHS Lanarkshire
	101	NHS Forth Valley		
NHS Orkney	<i>NO CHANGE REQUIRED</i>			
NHS Shetland	<i>NO CHANGE REQUIRED</i>			
NHS Tayside	44	NHS Fife	151	NHS Forth Valley
NHS Western Isles	<i>NO CHANGE REQUIRED</i>			

Regional Organising Professional Committee

An e-mail notification has been sent out to the GHPScot mailing list of the inaugural meeting of the pharmacists ROPC in Glasgow on 24 July 2013. Discussions with the Unite Regional Officer, Gordon Casey, ensured that the notification went out at the same time as an e-mail from Gordon to Regional Officers with NHS Board responsibilities asking them to seek to identify pharmacist members willing to take part in the committee.

Unlicensed Medicines Review

Work continues Glasgow to ensure that staff in the Pharmacy Production Unit are kept fully informed of progress ahead of the closure of the unit.

Other

I have dealt with a number of member queries.

Colin Rodden
20.06.13