

# Report of Secretary for Scotland to Guild Council Meeting 8/1/14

## Group Meetings

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

## In the Press

**14/10/2013** Health Secretary Alex Neil announced £4 million for five pilot schemes trying out best practice from Europe and North America on providing round-the-clock care every day of the week in NHS Scotland. He wants a genuine seven-day service where it needs to be and specifically mentioned pharmacists and physiotherapists. The new trial schemes will take place in *Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Borders, Tayside, Forth Valley* and *Lanarkshire*. In its editorial, The Herald warned against simply overloading staff and said that care provision will need to expand in some areas and change in others but must not increase the strain on staff who often have unsustainable workloads..

**08/11/13** Direct elections to health boards will not be extended across Scotland, with NHS bosses instead being told to use alternative methods to get local people involved. *NHS Fife* and *NHS Dumfries and Galloway* were involved in a trial in which members of the public could vote people on to the health boards. But the turnout at the elections, held in spring 2010, was low and the costs prohibitive, with the Scottish Government arguing that this was not the most effective way of involving local people. Instead, health boards will look at how they can adapt initiatives tested in *NHS Lothian* and *NHS Grampian* to their own areas. *NHS Grampian* recruited two new board members after advertising more widely on local radio, newspapers and with flyers. In *NHS Lothian*, wider advertising resulted in one new member joining the board, while another was found through the area's patient forums.

**22/10/13** Six health developments totalling over £69 million across the country have been given the go ahead. *Lanarkshire* will benefit from three new health centres totalling a value of £45.7 million and a £7.5 million child and adolescent mental health unit in *Tayside* will serve patients from the *Grampian, Highland, Orkney, Shetland* and *Tayside* areas after business plans were approved for each. A Health Campus Project in *Inverurie* and a replacement for St Brendan's Hospital in *Western Isles* have also received initial agreement, allowing plans for both projects to progress onto the next stage.

**14/11/13** Living it Up (LiU), a £10 million digital health, care and wellbeing project was unveiled by Health Secretary Alex Neil who said the project would help people link up with health and wellbeing services in their local area. LiU provides personalised advice on improving and managing health and wellbeing. The unique technology matches an individual's needs and interests with professional information, local services, and beneficial activities and events in their community. Real users guide the service and future innovations. LiU is accessed via familiar technology such as televisions, computers, smartphones, tablets and games consoles. Video conferencing between patients and health care professionals is also being trialled.

**04/12/13** NHSScotland is sharing learning about patient safety with Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Ohio, USA, widely regarded as a world leader in patient safety, and this has influenced how the Scottish Patient Safety Programme is run. The Health Secretary visited the hospital to learn about their work on patient safety and to share best practice from NHSScotland. The Ohio hospital first pioneered morning safety and flow huddles, which have now been adopted at Yorkhill Children's Hospital in

Glasgow. Since introducing the meetings in January 2013, Yorkhill has reduced delayed discharges in their paediatric intensive care unit from over 70 per cent to around 20 per cent. The daily safety meetings examine safety and flow through the hospital, and involve staff from throughout the hospital discussing individual patients to ensure they are treated safely, and that they can be discharged from hospital as soon as they are ready. The Cincinnati hospital is also learning from the Scottish approach to ensuring children have the best start in life. Clinicians from the hospital have visited Scotland to learn more about the Early Years Collaborative, which is a programme set up to help make Scotland the best place to grow up.

**13/12/13** The results of the latest NHS Scotland Staff Survey were published. The 2013 Survey showed over 75% of staff felt supported to do their jobs; an increase from 2010 in the number of staff who felt it was safe to speak up and challenge the ways things are done, and an increase in those feeling there were enough staff for them to do their job properly. Findings from the staff survey included:

- 87 per cent were happy to go the 'extra mile' when required.
- 89 per cent are indicating they are not experiencing bullying and harassment from a manager.
- 85 per cent are indicating they are not experiencing bullying and harassment from other colleagues.
- Of those who had experienced bullying and harassment, 36 per cent said they had reported it, which is three per cent higher than in 2010.
- For the first time the majority of staff, 52 per cent, felt safe to speak up and challenge the way things are done.

The staff survey also highlighted a number of areas of improvement since 2006, such as an increase in the number of staff who:

- would recommend their board as a good place to work.
- are confident that their ideas will be listened to.
- feel they get the support they need from colleagues.

**17/12/13** The Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) review of NHS Lanarkshire was published today. The rapid review, commissioned by the Scottish Government and undertaken by HIS, was initiated by the Scottish Government in August when monitoring of Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios (HSMR) through the Scottish Patient Safety Programme indicated that while the fall in hospital mortality over the last five years at all three hospitals in the NHS Lanarkshire area was welcome, Monklands Hospital had not progressed sufficiently. 21 recommendations were made for improvement by the health board. These recommendations are being urgently addressed by NHS Lanarkshire, and the board will be supported by the improvement team, made up of health experts from across Scotland. The Health Secretary established an expert Governance and Improvement Support team to help NHS Lanarkshire make improvements as a result of an assessment of patient safety and the quality of care. The Team will focus on supporting the development and implementation of the delivery plan to be put in place by NHS Lanarkshire to fulfil all 21 recommendations.

**17/12/13** Figures showed that the NHS in Scotland is treating more people than ever before, with an increase of 3% acute inpatient and day case discharges in the quarter ending September 2013, when compared to the same quarter last year. The number of outpatient attendances also increased by 2% over the last year..

**29/12/13** There is to be a renewed focus on ensuring the NHS in Scotland provides round the clock care in 2014, according to the Health Secretary. A taskforce of senior leaders in the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland is to meet early in the New Year to drive forward focused

improvements in the services available out of hours, particularly at the weekends. More is to be done to move away from variations in how care is provided at the weekend. In his statement, Mr Neil said: "It should mean that pharmacists, physiotherapists, porters - all the services you need to help patients move through and be discharged from hospital - are on hand at the point they are needed to optimise patient care." It is to be hoped that this concentrates on bringing weekend services up to the level of weekday services rather than dragging weekday services down to the lowest common denominator.

## **Regional Organising Professional Committee**

The inaugural meeting of the Pharmacists Regional Organising Professional Committee took place on 22 October. It is hoped to hold meetings three times a year with representatives from each of the health boards (both territorial and special) where there are members. The main topic for the first meeting was "Prescription for Excellence" and there was a good discussion on the implications for members. The PowerPoint presentation that I put together was subsequently circulated to ROPC members for use in their areas. The Committee was also surprised to see the number of consultations to which GHP has responded throughout the year. This aspect of GHP work is most definitely under-publicised to members.

## **Unlicensed Medicines Review**

Work continues.

## **Prescription for Excellence**

On 20th September, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care approved the Scottish Government's Vision and Action Plan for the future of Pharmaceutical Care in Scotland entitled "Prescription for Excellence". The report has implications for both primary and secondary care and describes the direction of pharmaceutical care over the next 10 years in Scotland. The plan was forwarded to Council and I have presented on the document a couple of times at base and ROPC. I attended a "Prescription for Excellence" stakeholders meeting at the end of November, but it is still not crystal clear exactly how the various work streams will be progressed.

## **Other**

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

Colin Rodden  
03.01.14