**Meeting re Lochgelly Health Centre – Monday 27 June 2016**

**Situation**

**Premises**

NHS Fife has recognised that Lochgelly Health Centre does not meet all current standards and limits high quality modern integrated patient care and approval was given by the Capital Planning Group to begin to look at potential capital investment to meet patient and service needs.

There has been local media coverage and contact from politicians relating to a perceived need for a new Health Centre in Lochgelly over the last 12 to 18 months. It is understood that the Lochgelly Community Council have launched a campaign and a petition.

**Access**

There has also been enquiries from the Cowdenbeath Area Committee, local media coverage and an interest in access to General Practice.

Following recent negative media coverage on both topics it was agreed a more pro-active approach may be beneficial and this meeting was offered to:

Councillor Mark Hood, Labour

Councillor Ian Chisholm, Scottish National Party

Councillor Linda Erskine, Labour

Stevie Murray, Secretary, Lochgelly Community Council

**Background**

**Health and Wellbeing Profile**

The Knowfife Briefing, ScotPHO Health and Wellbeing Profile for the Cowdenbeath area (May 2015) is attached for information.

**Premises**

A new requirement is being introduced by the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorate (SGHSCD) as part of the update of the Scottish Capital Investment Manual (SCIM). NHS Fife is following this new process for the first time. The new requirements include the preparation of a Strategic Assessment (SA) as the first “formal” part of the Business Planning process. The aim of the SA is to identify and briefly outline the need for service change and describe early thoughts on a potential solution, through discussions in a workshop format, providing a summarised assessment of the issues.

**Access**

There is a reported perception that access to General Practice in Lochgelly is poor.

**Assessment**

**Premises**

The SA outlined consideration of a solution that will offer a fuller range of integrated primary and community health and care services designed to meet the needs of the local population.

The completed SA (attached for ease of reference) has been approved by NHS Fife’s Capital Planning Group. Within the Community Services Division of NHS Fife this has been identified as the second top priority with Kincardine Health Centre being identified as the top priority. NHS Fife has submitted a Qualifying Project Template to register the Project on the East Central Territory (ECT) Hubco Project Pipeline. This was formally approved and added to the pipeline as a Design and Build (DB) Capital funded project at the June meeting of the Territory Partnership Board

At the same time as seeking approval and support for the SA, NHS Fife applied and was successful in obtaining funds through Hubco to assist and support NHS Fife in the development of the Initial Agreement Document (IAD) which is the next stage in making the Business Case in the SCIM process. The IAD is a more detailed discussion about requirements and exploration of options which in turn builds towards the development of a Full Business Case (FBC). The IADs for both Kincardine and Lochgelly Health Centre are being progressed at the same time.

Planning of the work to develop the IAD is underway, with a view to holding workshops with a core group of stakeholders and partners to ensure appropriate investment as well as the collection of data required to support the process.

The GPs and other current users of the building are aware of and supportive of this work. Other stakeholders and partners will be consulted and involved as this planning process moves forward.

The estimated timescale for completion of the IAD is 22 weeks. The IAD will then have to go through NHS Fife’s approval process, Executive Directors Group (EDG), Finance, Performance and Resources Committee (F, P&R) and NHS Fife Board for approval, before being submitted to the SGHSCD Capital Investment Group (CIG)).

If approved and depending on the value of the preferred solution, NHS Fife will be advised to either prepare a Full Business Case (FBC) or if the cost of the project is to be above £5million we will have to prepare an Outline Business Case (OBC) followed by an FBC. If the FBC is approved, implementing the preferred option will be subject to approval of SGHSCD Capital funding.

Following the SCIM and approval requirements is a lengthy process and timescales are currently difficult to predict.

**Access**

Whilst there are currently no GP vacancies in Lochgelly, like all general practices across Scotland, the practices in the Health Centre are experiencing difficulties in meeting demand for appointments. For the last two years they have been required to regularly review their access as part of their contract with the NHS, and have adapted their appointment systems accordingly. All three practices have Nurse Triage systems in place and this ensures that urgent appointments are given to those most in need.

**Recommendation**

* To seek support for the work that will require to be undertaken in the Capital Planning process and understanding of the process involved.
* To increase understanding of General Practice, in particular access issues.

Lesley Eydmann, Clinical Services Manager, West Division

Joyce Kelly, Primary Care Manager

Julie Parkinson, Head of Primary Care Administration

Jim Rotheram, Facilities Manager

Alan Briggs, Assistant Director of Finance

22 June 2016