

Distribution:
All Community Council's

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Dear Community Council Chair

NHS Orkney Primary and Community Services Redesign: Proposed Programme of Engagement with Community Council's January – June 2010

NHS Orkney is writing to all Community Council's to update you on progress with our programme of service redesign for Primary and Community services and to negotiate a programme of further engagement for the first six months of 2010.

The NHS Orkney Clinical Strategy 'Our Orkney, Our Health' and Service Redesign Programme was approved by the NHS Orkney Board in June 2009. These documents summarise the changes that impact on services provided by NHS Orkney and the objectives that need to be achieved when modernising service provision. The first phase of the service redesign that NHS Orkney has worked on with Community Council's has focused on the Primary and Community services for Westray / Papa Westray, Stronsay / Eday and Sanday. This was necessary because of a number of clinical vacancies on these isles and the need to recruit new clinicians to cover these islands. NHS Orkney has now agreed the service models for these islands. This will involve GP's continuing to be based on Westray, Sanday and Stronsay and Nurse Practitioners being based on Papa Westray and Eday. The Westray GP will continue to provide a visiting service to Papa Westray and the Stronsay GP will also cover Eday. The practitioner's involved in delivering the services to these islands will be part of a 'network of care' to provide a framework of clinical governance, mutual support and ongoing training. This network also involves the Heilendi Practice in Kirkwall and it is anticipated that other Islands may play into this network in the future.

The recruitment process for the GP's and Nurse Practitioners for the above Islands is now well underway. We had an excellent uptake for information about all of the posts and this has resulted in 10 GP and 12 Nurse Practitioner applications. Interviews will take place on 11th January 2010 with visits to the Islands for all candidates being arranged for 9th, 10th January 2010. We look forward to updating the Westray, Papa Westray, Eday, Stronsay and Sanday Community Councils on the outcomes of these interviews early in the New Year.

Orkney NHS Board Headquarters:
Garden House, New Scapa Road, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1BQ

Chair: John Ross Scott
Chief Executive: Iain Crozier

The focus of the second phase of NHS Orkney's Primary and Community service redesign programme from January 2010 will be to develop and agree sustainable models of health care for Shapinsay and Rousay. We would like to engage with the Shapinsay and Rousay Community Council's around the developing isles network of care and discuss possible service models. It is hoped that meetings can be help with the Rousay and Shapinsay Community Councils in February 2010 with a view to following this up with meetings with the wider communities soon after this.

Another focus of the second phase of Primary and Community service redesign will be to plan the service provided to Evie residents. The GP in Evie has indicated that he is likely to retire in 2010 and NHS Orkney plans to meet with Evie practice patients in the early Spring of 2010 to consider the options for future service provision.

While Shapinsay, Rousay and Evie will be our main focus for engagement with Community Councils on Primary and Community service redesign, we also plan to continue to liaise with the Flotta Community Council on the recruitment of a new Nurse Practitioner in January 2010. Again, while there are no plans to change the model of care on North Ronaldsay, with the main service continuing to be provided by Dr Woodbridge, we need to meet with the North Ronaldsay Community Council about the cover that is put in place for Dr Woodbridge while he provides some additional time to provide leadership to the Acute Medical Team in the Balfour Hospital for several months at the start of 2010. A team from NHS Orkney plan to meet with the North Ronaldsay Community Council in January 2010 to speak about how Dr Woodbridge's time away from North Ronaldsay is covered. We have traditionally covered Dr Woodbridge's time away from North Ronaldsay with locum GP's however, we are keen to work with the community to see if some of this cover can be provided by Nurse Practitioners who already provide similar roles on Papa Westray, Eday and Flotta.

As a follow up to this letter I will contact the Chair's of the Community Council's mentioned above to confirm the dates for these meetings.

While these are the main plans for engagement with Community Council's over the next six months, we are happy to attend meetings in other areas / islands to speak about any aspect of healthcare service delivery.

Yours sincerely

Karen Crichton
Interim Community Health Partnership General Manager

Cc Development Trust Chair's