

From: Richard Tipper [rafts@btinternet.com]

Sent: 29 November 2009 20:53

To: Bryan Milner; Christina Cox; Pigott David (Orkney NHS Board); graham sinclair; Scott John Ross (Orkney NHS Board); Crichton Karen (Orkney NHS Board); Liam Mcarthur; Manzie Michelle (Orkney NHS Board); Mark Hull; Sam Harcus; stephen hagan

Cc: Maureen Spence

Subject: Rousay healthcare provision

Hi all,

Please read the attached letter.

Regards

Richard Tipper
(REWCC Chair)

ROUSAY, EGILSAY, WYRE & GAIRSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Howdis Meadow,
ROUSAY.

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29th November 2009

To all concerned,

As many of you will be aware, there have been a number of emails circulating over the past few weeks with regards to communication issues, and the "Developing a Network of Care for the North Isles" document, these e-mails have recently been brought to my attention.

As chair of the Rousay Egilsay and Wyre community council, I feel it right for me to respond, and to try and clarify the present situation.

Firstly, with regards to the communication issue; probably not helped by the fact that during this "consultation" period (which has been ongoing in some shape or form for several years now) we, as a community, have seen from the NHS, several Chief Executives, Medical directors, CHP managers, etc, etc, most, if not all, have changed. I do not believe we have ever seen the same person twice! This has made it difficult when wanting a direct answer to any specific questions we have had.

Some years ago it was agreed, between NHS Orkney and the local residents, that with regards to healthcare provision on our three islands, that communication would be best made through the community council, who would then feed this information to the wider community. With this in mind, the new primary care manager for NHS Orkney (Michelle Manzie) visited Rousay in August, to meet with myself, (as chair of the REWCC) she mentioned the possibility of the Rousay surgery joining in some way with the Dounby Surgery, (Dounby surgery hadn't agreed to anything at that stage, and still haven't, as far as I am aware.)

The REWCC discussed this at our September meeting where in general, we could see some of the benefits, but there was, and still is, a lot of unanswered concerns.

This information would have normally been fed into the Development Trust via our two members who are also directors of the Development Trust, unfortunately, one missed the relevant council meeting and the other the relevant trust meeting. This however should not have stopped NHS Orkney from informing any Development Trust members, or other members of the local community, when they met them at various other events (isles vision events, etc) Or does one half of the health board not know what the other half is doing?!

Michelle Manzie had hoped to attend, along with other stakeholders, our next Community Council meeting on the 5th December, due to a number of reasons (on both sides) this will not be possible. We are in the process of trying to arrange a new date early in the New Year, where I hope we will be able to have an open and honest meeting to discuss the best way forward.

With regards to the “Developing a Network of Care for the North Isles”, this document was never sent to the REWCC, although I received a copy of it through our local Development Trust, some considerable time after it was first issued to other community councils.

It appears to me that NHS Orkney through Karen Crichton has been in communication with various Development Trusts about this document. Maybe the reason it was never sent to REWCC is that Rousay Egilsay or Wyre do not get a single mention, not once! Which raises the question, how can NHS Orkney produce a document, that in its opening line states that “the aim of this document is to develop a robust system of care for the North Isles of Orkney” and yet not include our three islands! Has NHS Orkney forgotten we exist? Are they trying to sneak something in through the back door?

I am, and I believe the resident of Rousay Egilsay and Wyre are, very willing to discuss a sensible way forward, with regards to healthcare provision for our islands, past NHS officials have been made very aware of our preferred options, I hope the present NHS board are also aware of our preferred options before any decisions are made. If anything is being “arranged” without the full support and co-operation of both sides, then it will be doomed for failure.

Yours Sincerely,

Richard Tipper
(Chair)

From: [Scott John Ross \(Orkney NHS Board\)](#)

To: [Richard Tipper](#)

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 10:19 AM

Subject: RE: Rousay healthcare provision

Hi Richard,

Nice to hear from you. The confusion may stem from the term 'North Isles', When I was at Orkney Today we referred to Westray, Sanday, Papay, North Ronaldsay, Eday and Stronsay as 'The North Isles' and Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre, Gairsay and Shapinsay as 'The Inner North Isles' There are also ferry links to 'The North Isles' and 'The Inner North Isles.'

I know that Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre were well represented on the patients Community Reference Group and I hope they are in the new NHS Public Partnership Forum which is meeting in Orkney College tonight,

Kind regards,

John Ross Scott

Chair: NHS Orkney

From: Richard Tipper [mailto:rafts@btinternet.com]

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 9:57 PM

To: Scott John Ross (Orkney NHS Board)

Cc: stephen hagan; Sam Harcus; Mark Hull; Manzie Michelle (Orkney NHS Board); McArthur L (Liam), MSP; Karen Crichton; John Ross Scott; graham sinclair; David Pigott; Christina Cox; Bryan Milner

Subject: Re: Rousay healthcare provision

Hi John,

Thanks for the reply, (and the geography lesson!)

But I'm afraid your argument has me somewhat puzzled, having lived on several of the "North Isles" (inner and outer) I am well aware of how different people view the "North Isles" so there is definitely no confusion this end. We have three Councillors, in Stephen Hagan, Sam Harcus, and Graham Sinclair who represent the "north Isles" which includes "all" of the islands that you mention. So the council (which NHS Orkney are trying to form a closer working partnership with) have us grouped in the North Isles.

You state you would have Shapinsay as part of "The Inner North Isles" along with Rousay etc; however, Shapinsay did get a mention in the "developing a network of care for the North isles" document. That is a little confusing!

I don't wish to get bogged down in the terminology of what constitutes the North Isles, I would rather have meaningful dialogue to secure a clinically safe and sustainable healthcare solution for Rousay Egilsay and Wyre. Whether we are inner, outer, north, south, east or west!

Kind regards

Richard Tipper

From: [Scott John Ross \(Orkney NHS Board\)](#)

To: [Richard Tipper](#)

Cc: [stephen hagan](#) ; [Sam Harcus](#) ; [Mark Hull](#) ; [Manzie Michelle \(Orkney NHS Board\)](#) ; [Liam McArthur](#) ; [Crichton Karen \(Orkney NHS Board\)](#) ; [graham sinclair](#) ; [Pigott David \(Orkney NHS Board\)](#) ; [Christina Cox](#) ; [Bryan Milner](#)

Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 9:58 AM

Subject: RE: Rousay healthcare provision

Richard,

Don't take offence. I am well aware that there is a North Isles Council ward. When it comes to primary care provision however I would find it difficult to link Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Shapinsay with a North Isles practice. The transport links are not good enough.

I agree the important thing is dialogue and engagement. Our top priority right now is to work out a solution for a Westray, Sanday, Papey, North Ronaldsay, Eday and Stronsay practice. We have not forgotten Rousay, Shapinsay or the South Isles.

Regards,

John

John Ross Scott
Chair: NHS Orkney

From: liam.mcarthur.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
To: [Richard Tipper](#)
Cc: [Mark Hull](#) ; [Christina Cox](#) ; [Bryan Milner](#) ; msp@msporkney.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 9:30 AM
Subject: RE: Rousay healthcare provision

Richard

Thank you for copying me into this correspondence with NHS Orkney. I saw John Ross Scott's response but, as you say, given the way in which Shapinsay is dealt with as part of this consultation, I'm not sure that the distinction he draws serves to explain the absence of any reference to REW.

I agree entirely, however, that the more important issue at this stage is clarity around the situation regarding primary healthcare services on REW going forward. From my conversations/correspondence with NHS Orkney over recent months, I don't think this issue has been entirely ignored. That said, I suspect your letter will have served as a useful reminder to NHS Orkney that as it develops an approach to healthcare delivery in the north isles (in their broadest possible sense!) care must be taken to make clear throughout how each community fits into those plans. The plans themselves, of course, will need to be subject to full consultation - or the meaningful dialogue, to which you refer.

If concerns remain in this regard, or there is anything you or fellow Community Council members feel I can do to assist, please let me know. In the meantime, thank you again for keeping me updated.

Kind regards, Liam