

<i>item:</i>	9
<i>report:</i>	CYP13/10

CHANGING FOR THE BETTER: A REVIEW OF CHILD HEALTH SERVICES IN NHS HIGHLAND by Sally Amor

Summary

The Joint Committee for Children and Young People is asked to:

- Note that a review of child health services in NHS Highland has been undertaken by Dr Zoe Dunhill, previously of Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital, NHS Lothian
- Note that the Review has implications for the design and delivery of child health services across NHS Highland which are based on a cost neutral basis of service redesign and modernisation
- Note that a series of recommendations have been made that will be implemented through to 2015 and that the Joint Committee will be kept advised of progress on implementing these over the coming months

1. Background

1.1 Children and young people up to the age of eighteen represent over 18% of Highland's population and are a stated priority for the Scottish Government as reflected in a series of high profile reports and policy statements in recent months and years. Child health services across NHS Highland are provided within the Argyll and Bute CHP and through a series of service level agreements with NHS Glasgow and Clyde and as a hosted service from the Raigmore site for South East, Mid Highland and the North Highland CHPs. Tertiary services are accessed from the four specialist children's hospitals in Scotland with an increased focus on services that can be delivered through the North of Scotland for the Highland Partnership and through the West of Scotland for the population of Argyll and Bute.

1.2 A primary driver for the review was the need to be clear over the governance and accountability arrangements for the delivery of child health services across NHS Highland. This to ensure that NHS Highland can ensure a safe and comprehensive service for children and young people across the NHS Highland geography in light a range of policy drivers that include the following:

- Better Health Better Care
- Delivering a Healthy Future: An Action Template for the Delivery of Child Health Services in Scotland
- National Delivery Plan for Specialist Children's Services
- Managing Medical Careers
- Emergency Care Framework

2. The Review process

- 2.1 The aim and scope of the review was developed through the Children's Services Network and was endorsed through the NHS Highland Executive Group. The aim of the Review was detailed as follows:

To review the current structure, delivery and governance arrangements for child health services across NHS Highland, with a principle focus on the geography served by specialist paediatrics provided through Raigmore. This to ensure that child health services across NHS Highland are able to address the challenges of a series of national and regional policy directives' these are detailed in the Report.

- 2.2 The Review Process involved the following tasks:
- A review of current service structure and configuration across NHS Highland (desk top)
 - A review of national and regional policy drivers and the implications of these for NHS Highland (desk top)
 - Meetings/tele conferences with clinicians and managers across the NHS Highland system including Raigmore, rural general hospitals, managers in the four Highland CHPs, and involving up to 90 individuals
 - Detailing the current and future interfaces between:
 - neonates and medical paediatrics
 - acute and community paediatrics
 - community paediatrics and CAMHS
 - medical staff, nursing staff and Allied Health Professionals
 - all the above and Primary Care clinicians
 - Meetings with Chief Officers, integrated children's services for the Highland Partnership
- 2.3 The process was overseen by a reference group including the Medical Director, Director Community Care, General Manager Women and Children's Directorate Raigmore, and the Child Health Commissioner
- 2.4 The methodology for the Review involved a robust process of discussion, review and the subsequent triangulation of views and perspectives, informing the final recommendations, with key stakeholders, including: acute and community medical personnel, nursing and allied health professionals, CHP General Managers, the Board Medical and Nursing Directors and the Associate Director for Allied Health Professionals

3. Outcome from the Review

- 3.1 The review process has:
- Confirmed the need to strengthen governance and accountability arrangements across the NHS Highland system
 - Highlighted the need/advantages of developing Highland wide clinical leadership and the associated NHS Highland Child Health Obligate Network

- Demonstrated that at the current time operational units across NHS Highland often work independently of each other and that there are tangible opportunities for service redesign and modernisation that will be for the good of children/young people and families
- Identified committed and enthusiastic work forces who are committed to delivering high quality care to children, young people and families across all Highland communities. Many of these staff have expressed a willingness and an openness to change.

3.2 Next Steps

A series of recommendations were made in the report covering a variety of aspects of the service from workforce to processes and procedures. These recommendations and subsequent actions to address them will be captured in an action plan to be monitored through the Children/s services network. Implications for integrated service planning will be fed into the relevant group and reported to the Joint Committee.

Recommendations

The Joint Committee is asked to note that:-

- i. a review of child health services in NHS Highland has been undertaken by Dr Zoe Dunhill, previously of Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital, NHS Lothian;
- ii. the Review has implications for the design and delivery of child health services across NHS Highland which are based on a cost neutral basis of service redesign and modernisation; and
- iii. a series of recommendations have been made that will be implemented through to 2015 and that the Joint Committee will be kept advised of progress on implementing these over the coming months.

Sally Amor

Child Health Commissioner/Public Health Specialist