

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 29 NOVEMBER 2001

THE FUTURE OF MATERNITY SERVICES IN AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN

Report by the Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Committee endorsement of the officer response to the consultation by NHS Ayrshire and Arran on the future of maternity services in Ayrshire and Arran.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 8 October 2001, NHS Ayrshire and Arran invited responses to a consultation document proposing changes to in-patient maternity services in Ayrshire and Arran.
- 2.2 The closing date for responses was 23 November 2001. Accordingly, an officer response was submitted within that timescale. However, the response advised NHS Ayrshire and Arran that endorsement of that response would be sought from Committee and that further contact would be made following the conclusion of that process.

3. Proposed Changes to In-Patient Maternity Services

- 3.1 The consultation document issued for comment by NHS Ayrshire and Arran proposes the replacement of the current in-patient maternity services located at Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine with a new purpose-built facility on the site of Crosshouse Hospital.
- 3.2 The proposed change has been made in response to the recently published national framework for maternity services in Scotland, issued by the Scottish Executive Health Department. In particular, it responds to the preference within the framework for in-patient maternity services to be located on district general hospital sites in order to have adequate acute and emergency medical services available if necessary to support difficulties with childbirth.

4. Officer Response

- 4.1 In order to meet the timescale for responses set by NHS Ayrshire and Arran, an officer response has been submitted. The response welcomes the proposed change while pointing out the need to take account of particular issues in developing the new services.
- 4.2 A copy of the officer response is attached as Appendix 1.

5. Financial, Legal and Policy Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial, legal or policy implications arising for the Council as a consequence of the proposed changes to in-patient maternity services in Ayrshire and Arran.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Committee is requested to :

- a) endorse the attached officer response as the Council response to the NHS Ayrshire and Arran consultation on changes to in-patient maternity services in Ayrshire and Arran;
- b) authorise the Chief Executive to inform NHS Ayrshire and Arran of the Council's position; and
- c) otherwise, note the content of the report.

David Montgomery
Chief Executive

23 November 2001

For further information, please contact John Alexander, Principal Officer (Quality and Planning) on ext. 6978.

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Director: John Mulgrew
Head of Social Work: Stephen Moore
If Calling Please Ask For: John Alexander

Your Ref:
Our Ref: DM/JA/CR
Date: 22 November 2001

Mr. George L. Irving
Chairman
NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Boswell House
10 Arthur Street
AYR
KA7 1QJ

Dear Mr Irving,

THE FUTURE OF MATERNITY SERVICES IN AYRSHIRE & ARRAN

This letter contains an officer response to your letter dated 8 October 2001, in which you invited responses to your consultation on the future of maternity services in Ayrshire & Arran. It is intended to seek the Council's ratification of this response through the Policy & Resources Committee when it meets on 29 November 2001.

In general terms, the proposal to re-locate in-patient maternity services from Ayrshire Central Hospital to a new purpose-built unit on the site of Crosshouse Hospital is welcomed. In view of the standards contained in the Scottish Executive document "A Framework for Maternity Services in Scotland", published earlier this year, it is recognised that building a purpose-built new unit on a district general hospital site is the preferred option for NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

In welcoming the proposed development, it is also pertinent to take account of specific concerns which will need to be addressed in developing the new in-patient facilities. These relate to :

- likely concerns felt by residents in the north of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran catchment area at the loss of a facility in Irvine;

- the importance of ensuring that the new facilities make proper provision for accessibility for travel and for support for particularly vulnerable groups of pregnant women and recent mothers, including very young mothers, those experiencing post-natal depression and those affected by domestic abuse.

I trust that this officer response will be noted when the consultation responses are being evaluated. I shall contact you further when the Council has had an opportunity to consider the matter later this month.

Yours sincerely

DAVID MONTGOMERY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA