

Public Involvement Manager
NHS Tayside
The North Lodge, Kings Cross
Cleington Road
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DD3 8EA

12 January 2017

Dear Allyson

NHS Tayside- Shaping Surgical Services Review

We understand that proposals for the reconfiguration of the surgical model in Tayside relate to the wider Shaping Surgical Services (SSS) Transformational Change programme.

Further work on the two preferred options relating to resource, workforce and financial planning was undertaken and the preferred surgical model being proposed for the future would mean:

Perth Royal Infirmary

- There will be no unscheduled admissions for surgery
- Expanded and central role in elective care delivery for Tayside.
- Enhancement of critical care through re-engineering of High Dependency / Post operative Care Unit
- Overnight cover for inpatient unscheduled care arranged by the Tayside surgical team

Ninewells Hospital

- All unscheduled admissions in Tayside will come to Ninewells Hospital 24/7.
- Significant shift of elective surgery from Ninewells Hospital to Perth Royal Infirmary.

Stracathro

- Further development of day case and minor elective surgery. Patients who fulfil the anaesthetic and surgical criteria will increasingly have their care delivered at Stracathro.

View on status of proposals

On the basis of the information that you have shared with us, we have considered whether this proposed change would be likely to meet the general threshold for 'major change'. This has included reviewing the proposed change alongside other changes in Scotland that have been identified as 'major' to identify any comparable changes in recent years.

We noted that the proposed benefits to patients of the preferred model; reduce delay in the time to beginning definitive treatment, access to full range of specialties and treatment options at Ninewells and reduced likelihood of elective surgery being cancelled.

We feel the proposals would meet the threshold for major service change on the basis that:

- proposals relate to emergency surgery, with Perth Royal Infirmary's unscheduled admissions transferring to Ninewells. However we do note proposals include recommendations to introduce more elective surgery at Perth Royal Infirmary
- previous proposals in 2013 to withdraw unscheduled surgery from Perth Royal Infirmary were considered to be major service change and attracted local and political concern which would benefit from discussion and decision via the major change process
- similar proposals elsewhere have been considered major service change
- the distance to Ninewells for patients from rural areas of Perth and Kinross may be significant and with patients not routinely repatriated after surgery the distance for visitors will increase, and
- there is a perception that changes to the surgical model may lead to a perceived downgrading of Perth Royal Infirmary and impact on other services

Next steps

We would recommend holding a further meeting with the Public Partners who took part in the option appraisal to review the consultation materials to ensure that the case for change is clear and the proposed model for surgery is understandable.

The consultation materials should clearly explain how the preferred option was reached, the reasons why other options were discounted. However, it must also be clear that all responses to the consultation will be considered. In particular, the Board should give genuine consideration to any alternative suggestions that are put forward as a result of the consultation.

If the proposals change I would ask that you contact us at the earliest opportunity as it may be necessary to review this position.

Whilst the points raised represent the view of the Scottish Health Council, the decision on whether a change to services should be considered major rests with the Scottish Government.

Please contact if you wish to clarify any of the above points.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Connelly
Service Change Manager
Scottish Health Council

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