

Bill Nicol
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Date:
Your Ref:

Our Ref: TAYORTHO-MSC

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Dear Bill

Shaping Orthopaedic services in Tayside

Thank you for sharing your Major Service Change assessment with us for comment.

It is our understanding from the information shared that the proposals would mean-

- all emergency operative trauma for the Perth and Kinross population will transfer to Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. Non-operative trauma patients will continue to be admitted directly to Perth Royal Infirmary. If a patient required inpatient care longer than 72 hours post-operatively, then they will return to a facility in the Perth and Kinross area,
- an Orthopaedic Centre of Excellence would be developed at Perth Royal Infirmary and potentially provide a further 400 elective cases per year. This would potentially reduce travel to Dundee for the Perth and Kinross population and reduce waiting times for procedures for Dundee and Angus patients, and
- elective orthopaedic activity could be returned to Tayside from the National Waiting Times Centre at the Golden Jubilee Hospital, Clydebank which would provide surgery closer to home for patients within Tayside.

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 the proposed benefits to patients of the preferred model; timely access to appropriate unplanned care facilities, increased unplanned and elective theatre capacity, reduced waiting times for an elective procedure, potential reaction of travel out with Tayside and within Tayside for elective procedures.

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

- proposals relate to emergency surgery, although we note the number of people affected is low the the distance to Ninewells for patients from rural areas of Perth and Kinross may be significant
- there was significant local public and political concern expressed about the Shaping Surgical Service proposals and their impact on the future of Perth Royal Infirmary. A three month public consultation may help to address some of these concerns and clarify the current and future level of service provision as part of the wider Transforming Tayside strategy.
- the consultation launched on the 29 July and so far, we are not aware of any negative media, public or political response to the proposals. However, this could be due to the summer holiday period.
- similar changes in Tayside and elsewhere in Scotland have been considered major service change

Next steps

We note the engagement to date and the involvement of NHS Tayside's Public Partners in the development of the consultation materials.

We are aware that the Transport and Access group has been set up to work in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), local authority and transport providers to address concerns related to transport and access. It will be important for NHS Tayside to share information on the work of this group during the consultation, seek feedback on the suggested ways to negate the impact of further travel for Perth & Kinross population for unplanned surgery and to gather views from the Dundee and Angus population on travel to the proposed centre of Excellence at Perth Royal Infirmary.

The process to date has been clinically led, and informed by engagement over the last few years on the development of the Transforming Tayside strategy. It is important that the consultation process clearly explains how the model was developed, the reasons why other options were discounted and 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 we 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

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