



Lochaber Health & Social Care Redesign

including the latest on the new
Belford Hospital

USE:

Draft Version 1.2

ISSUE DATE:

22nd August 2017

CONTACT:

Maimie Thompson

01463 704722

maimie.thompson@nhs.net

Background

Funding for a replacement Belford Hospital in Fort William has been secured, in principle, as part of a wider redesign of health and social care services in Lochaber.

To oversee the work a steering group has been set up, supported by a number of sub-groups including a communications and engagement sub group which includes local community representatives and staff.

The redesign is at an early stage but NHS Highland will be looking to work with local people to develop options for the future, carry out ongoing engagement and consultation as required. Should the changes be considered to be 'Major' then a period of formal public consultation would be required.

The communications and engagement group will play a key role in providing advice to the board around how best to inform and engage about the changes with local people

One of the first tasks the group have undertaken was to summarise a series of questions and answers. These have been asked by staff, public and elected members about the hospital. This is just a starting point and we will keep refreshing as more detail becomes available. A number of questions have been raised which we are still sourcing answers for and these will be responded to in due course.

If you have a question you would like answered, or would like to get more involved, please get in touch via the contact details below.

Maimie Thompson Chair Maimie.thompson@nhs.net 01463 704722	Sandy Stoddart Vice-Chair ASToddart@churchofscotland.org.uk 01631 740 285
Ross Mackenzie Area Manager – West 01349 869268 Ross.mackenzie@nhs.net	

Questions and Answers

Is the Belford Hospital going to be replaced and, if so, when?

Yes it is going to be replaced. The timetable that we are working to is that it will be constructed during 2020/21

Will the replacement be a Rural General Hospital?

Yes.

What services will be provided in the hospital?

Services will include inpatient beds with 24/7 medical and nursing cover, A&E, operating theatres, outpatients, day surgery, acute medical and surgical assessment, renal unit, maternity services, infusions and transfusions.

Will the new hospital have locally based consultants?

Yes but the detail of the exact combination of clinicians requires further consideration. The business case will focus on what services will be provided and the wider work focus on who will provide the services. It is most likely to be a combination of locally based and plus rotational.

What about visiting outpatient consultant services?

A separate briefing is being prepared on visiting services.

Is the redesign just looking at the local hospital services?

No. It will also look at community-based services and also how the new hospital links in with Raigmore Hospital and also Lorn & Islands.

Are there plans to extend the range of services provided locally?

This is under review. Any developments will need to be sustainable both from a staffing and cost point of view.

Will there be a reduction in the number of hospital beds?

Currently there are 34 beds in the hospital. It is unlikely there will be more and could be fewer depending on the ability to further develop community services.

It has been suggested that all the beds in the new hospital will be provided in single rooms – is that correct?

Yes. The current national guidance is that any new hospital with inpatient beds will be provided in single rooms. However this is subject to review and some concerns have been expressed.

Has a possible site in Fort William been identified?

Yes – Blar Mor. This is land adjacent to the Fort William Health Centre.

Is the Blar Mor site big enough?

Yes. The site has been assessed by Estates.

Will the hospital be bigger or smaller?

This is what the business case process will determine. It is important to get the service model and workforce plan right and then design and build the appropriate clinical space.

Will laundry and kitchen services be retained locally?

Work will also have to take place on reviewing non-clinical services.

What services will there be for patients and visitors?

Various options will be considered and the views of service users, staff and members of the public will be important. One consideration is to have accommodation facilities for patients who have to travel.

Will there be adequate parking and will there be a bus service/bike sheds?

Yes. A Transport and Access Sub Group has already been set up and will consider all transport and access issues including parking

Who will have a say in the design of the new build?

Relevant stakeholders (staff, public, service users, partner agencies, Access Panel etc) will all be involved in the design of the new hospital and the wider redesign of services.

Will these be any job losses?

No. However, there may be some changes to roles and responsibilities including where staff work from.

Who will build the hospital and will it be Eco-Friendly?

Architects, other professionals and contractors will be appointed through a competitive process. Eco-efficiency will be an important criterion as will the outdoor space.

What will happen to the old Belford once it is vacated?

NHS Highland will declare the building surplus to requirements. The building and site will be offered first to the public sector for future development.

Will the current Belford Hospital last until the new hospital is built?

Yes that is the plan. NHS Highland will continue to maintain the building to ensure it is safe.