

From: Jonathan McColl [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 9:51 AM
To: SCO-Dumbarton-Editorial; [REDACTED]@trinitymirror.com; [REDACTED]@trinitymirror.com;
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; news@lennoxherald.co.uk
Subject: Out of Hours GPs Service Secured

Hi Folks

Please find attached a press release about the out of hours GP Service at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

Very good news :)

Jonathan

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@newsquest.co.uk]
Sent: 17 July 2017 10:19
To: Dick, Lorraine; Dell, Mark
Subject: Fw: Out of Hours GPs Service Secured
Attachments: SNP Press Release - GP Out of Hours Secure.docx

Morning Lorraine/Mark, hope all is well?

Just a quick note to ask if you guys would be kind enough to provide me with a comment in relation to this?

I know it's difficult at this stage as we go to print at 2.30pm but anything you could get me would be very much appreciated!

Hope you can help.

Best regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Reporter
Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Reporter
Clyde Weekly Press
Newsquest Scotland Group
T: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@newsquest.co.uk

From: McLaws, Ally
Sent: 17 July 2017 10:53
To: Grant, Jane; Brown, John
Cc: Farrell, Marie; Harkness, Anne
Subject: FW: GP Out of Hours
Importance: High

Dear Jane and John,
Please find attached the press release issued by Jonathan McColl.

Our briefing to Jonathan issued on Friday says "The Board remains totally committed to providing a high quality OOH service to all communities across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. This commitment clearly extends to the population currently served by the Vale GP OOH service."

This has been interpreted in the press release as "Health Board Chair John Brown CBE has confirmed that the Out of Hours GP Service at the Vale of Leven Hospital is secure, and the previous draft report putting it under threat has been scrapped."

The local West Dun papers called first thing this morning for comment.

I think we can only say that the GPOOH Review is continuing but we have restated our commitment to delivering a GPOOH service to the population currently served by the Vale.

I have highlighted in red in the SNP press release the key bits the media are focussing on.

Ally

From: McLaws, Ally
Sent: 17 July 2017 12:28
To: Best, Jonathan; Mcguire, Margaret
Subject: FW: GP Out of Hours
Attachments: Jonathan McColl briefing.docx; SNP Press Release - GP Out of Hours Secure.docx

Importance: High

Jonathan and Mags,
Just to make you aware of an issue.

As you may well already know the chairman and Jane met with West Dun council leader and board member Jonathan McColl late last week.

They talked of their commitment to the GPOOH service.

Jane and John issued a briefing to the councillor (attached) on Friday so that he could issue a press release reassuring the local population about services [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Local media are already all over this.

Mark Dell is leading on this one and is awaiting a word with the Chairman.

Ally

From: Brown, John
Sent: 17 July 2017 13:41
To: McLaws, Ally; Grant, Jane
Cc: Farrell, Marie; Harkness, Anne
Subject: RE: GP Out of Hours

Ally

I agree we need to stick to the agreed lines which confirm that we are committed to a service, without saying what that will be or where it will be delivered from once the review is completed.

Regards

John

John Brown CBE
Chairman
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
JB Russell House | Gartnavel Royal Hospital | 1055 Great Western Road | Glasgow G12 OXH
Tel: 0141 201 4600 | [REDACTED]
Email: jjbrown@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

From: SCO-Dumbarton-Editorial
Sent: 18 July 2017 09:56
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Out of Hours GPs Service Secured

A spokesman for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde said yesterday: "The GP Out of Hours Service across Scotland is facing significant challenges in staffing existing centres and home visiting services.

"Greater Glasgow and Clyde is no different in experiencing these issues.

"As a result, on the occasions where there are not enough GPs making themselves available to cover our GP Out of Hours centres, we concentrate resources on fewer sites.

"Following the publication of the national review by Sir Lewis Ritchie, NHSGGC and local HSCPs are taking forward our own work to explore how the service might be made more sustainable for all our local communities in line with the national review.

"At the same time we continue to talk with GPs and evaluate how we can best use the services of the existing cohort of GPs who agree to work Out of Hours. "We have also increased the pay rates over the summer months to encourage more GPs to volunteer to work Out of Hours.

"The Board remains totally committed to providing a high quality OOH service to all communities across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. This commitment clearly extends to the population currently served by the Vale GP OOH service."

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From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@newsquest.co.uk]
Sent: 18 July 2017 10:40
To: Office, Press
Subject: MD replied 18.07.17 - : Out of Hours GPs Service Secured
Attachments: SNP Press Release - GP Out of Hours Secure.docx

Good morning folks

One of my colleagues, [REDACTED], has been working on a story based on a press release from the ruling SNP group on West Dunbartonshire Council (attached) announcing that the out-of-hours GP service at the Vale of Leven has been saved and a draft report which put the service under threat has been scrapped.

I've been copied in to the comment you sent to [REDACTED] (who is out of the office this morning), but I'm not 100% clear on whether the SNP claim that the service has been saved is correct.

Can you clarify whether, as the SNP says, the draft report which proposed closing the service on weekday evenings has indeed been scrapped?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
Senior reporter, Helensburgh Advertiser

Clyde Weekly Press

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SNP Press Release: Councillors Secure Out of Hours GP Service

Health Board Chair John Brown CBE has confirmed that the Out of Hours GP Service at the Vale of Leven Hospital is secure, and the previous draft report putting it under threat has been scrapped.

A draft report sent to West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) in March had indicated that local out of hours GP cover would be removed with future services for the Vale of Leven, Dumbarton and Helensburgh being delivered from the RAH in Paisley, seriously impacting on people without their own transport.

Following up on his motion from that March meeting opposing the move, Leader of the Council, Cllr Jonathan McColl and HSCP Convener, Cllr Marie McNair, met with the Health Board Chair and the Chief Executive last Thursday and secured the future of this vital local service for the long term.

In order to resolve the short term cover issues, the Health Board Chair will also seek a meeting with local GPs to hear directly from them, what issues are preventing them from working out of hours. It's clear that a difference in pay for working in the Vale of Leven as opposed to some other areas within Greater Glasgow & Clyde is partially to blame, but there are other complex issues that need to be resolved. In the interim, the Board are continuing to seek Doctors from out with the area to work out of hours in the Vale of Leven to keep the service open.

Speaking after the successful meeting, Cllr McColl said,

"While some politicians are only interested in creating publicity for themselves, I believe in doing the work, speaking to the right people, taking action and getting results. This is an issue I've been working on since the spring and I'm delighted to have received this reassurance that the service is no longer under threat.

"Having secured the long term future of the service, we have also ensured that local GPs will be invited to meet with the Chair and other decision makers at the Board in order to resolve the current short term issues. I had a very good face to face meeting with Dr McLachlan and Dr Dunn from Helensburgh and I believe that the challenges are not insurmountable.

"We all want to find a resolution and the Health Board Chair will now also hear first-hand what the GPs need so they can return to delivering full cover for our local service. In the meantime, the Chief Executive will continue to employ willing GPs from out with the area to keep the service going."

Cllr McNair Added,

"Out of hours GP services are facing pressures across the country due to a shortage of Doctors willing to take on this extra work, and as such the Board are looking at the recent national review to develop its own new model of service delivery.

“In plain English that means they are taking the time to work out how best to use the resources they have to ensure that everyone in the Health Board catchment area has easy access to good services that will be sustainable into the future, and that includes Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven.

“We are a listening Council and we will work with other people and organisations to secure local services. The First Minister and Health Secretary continue to guarantee the future of the Vale of Leven Hospital, and as your locally elected SNP Councillors, we will always work hard on your behalf to ensure the delivery of safe and responsive services to the people of West Dunbartonshire.”

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

- For any queries, please contact Cllr Jonathan McColl on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] with limited access to Council remote email systems).
- Cllrs McColl and McNair met with John Brown CBE and Jane Grant on Thursday 13th July 2017 at 4pm.
- Cllr McColl’s motion, agreed by the HSCP in March reads as follows:

The Partnership Board also agreed the undernoted motion by Councillor McColl:-

The IJB agrees the recommendations and adds the following comments, to be taken into consideration during the review:

The IJB notes that the current preferred option would see a serious reduction in out of hours GP services based at the Vale of Leven and Inverclyde Royal Hospitals.

Given the geographical locations of these two facilities, the large numbers of service users (particularly at the Vale of Leven Hospital), and the wish of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to reduce inappropriate presentations to A&E Services, we do not believe that the reduction of operating hours of these locality services would be appropriate.

We are concerned about the reduced access to services that this decision would cause and are not convinced of the capacity of the patient transport service to be able to deal with the increased number of patient journeys to and from distant services.

The impact of increasing health inequality across the NHSGGC is also a serious concern and we also believe that it would be a false economy, given the risk of increased footfall at A&E facilities.

The IJB believes that out of hours GP services based at the Vale of Leven need to be planned and delivered in a better way, not cut, and we would add that the locations listed at 7.3 of the appendix cannot reasonably be described as ‘accessible’, especially out of hours, for those living in our communities or for those in Helensburgh who also rely on this service.

Briefing note for Jonathan McColl

The GP Out of Hours Service across Scotland is facing significant challenges in staffing existing centres and home visiting services.

In Greater Glasgow and Clyde we're experiencing the same issues and manage those occasions when there are simply not enough GPs making themselves available to cover our centres by concentrating resources on fewer sites.

In recognition of this issue and following the publication of the national review by Sir Lewis Ritchie the GGC Board and local HSCPs is now taking forward its own review to explore how the service might be made more sustainable for our local communities in line with this national review.

While this work goes on we continue to talk with GPs and review how we can best use the services of the existing cohort of GPs who agree to work out of hours. We have also increased the pay rates over the summer months to encourage more GPs to volunteer to work Out of Hours.

The Board remains totally committed to providing a high quality OOH service to all communities across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. This commitment clearly extends to the population currently served by the Vale GP OOH service.

Media Statement



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Lenox Herald & Dumbarton Reporter – WDC leader Jonathan McColl has issued a release saying our chairman has confirmed that the Out of Hours GP Service at the Vale of Leven Hospital is secure, and the previous draft report putting it under threat has been scrapped.

Looking to ascertain if this is correct.

17 July, 2017 (MD)

NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE STATEMENT ON GP OoH SERVICES IN CLYDE

The GP Out of Hours Service across Scotland is facing significant challenges in staffing existing centres and home visiting services.

Greater Glasgow and Clyde is no different in experiencing these issues. As a result, on the occasions where there are not enough GPs making themselves available to cover our GP Out of Hours centres, we concentrate resources on fewer sites.

Following the publication of the national review by Sir Lewis Ritchie, NHSGGC and local HSCPs are taking forward our own work to explore how the service might be made more sustainable for all our local communities in line with the national review.

At the same time we continue to talk with GPs and evaluate how we can best use the services of the existing cohort of GPs who agree to work Out of Hours. We have also increased the pay rates over the summer months to encourage more GPs to volunteer to work Out of Hours.

The Board remains totally committed to providing a high quality OOH service to all communities across Greater Glasgow and Clyde. This commitment clearly extends to the population currently served by the Vale GP OOH service.

ENDS

For further information either telephone **0141 201 4429** or email press.office@ggc.scot.nhs.uk