

FEEDBACK FOR NHS TAYSIDE BOARD
Perth and Kinross IJB Special Meeting 30 May 2023

Delivery of General Medical Service at Invergowrie Medical Practice

The IJB was asked to:

- *Note the current position with Invergowrie Medical Practice and the termination date of their GMS contract on 23 June 2023;*
- *Note the options explored for ensuring ongoing care for those patients currently registered with the Invergowrie Medical Practice;*
- *Note the preferred option recommended to NHS Tayside Board to disperse the majority of patients to Ancrum Medical Practice and the remaining patients to a small set of practices, local to where they live, and which have sufficient capacity to provide a continued good standard of access to healthcare and;*
- *Provide feedback for NHS Tayside Board to take into account in their decision-making.*

The meeting heard a deputation from Bailie Alasdair Bailey, Perth and Kinross Council elected member for the Carse of Gowrie ward and a link to a petition which had gathered 566 signatures ("We, the undersigned ask that the NHS gets ready to run the surgery directly in case no new doctors come forward to run it before its planned closure date in June").

In terms of providing feedback to NHS Tayside Board the IJB agreed to provide this by consensus via a collation of all the key points raised by IJB Members. It was agreed that the Chief Officer would collate this and circulate to members for comment and ensure that this was provided to NHS Tayside Board in advance of their meeting in writing. The meeting expressed a substantial frustration in the options available for Invergowrie as the need for achievability and safety restricted the options available to a single pragmatic way forward. There was a sense of working behind the pace of change which arises from the very real challenges for the provision of GP services. However, it was noted that some medical services were to be continuing, and that the potential for re-opening could be looked at in six months' time.

Key themes arising from the meeting:

1. Retention of premises and multi-disciplinary primary care and treatment services at Invergowrie.

- Dundee HSCP provide these services as the practice has been aligned to a Dundee HSCP cluster and the IJB considered that it was crucial that these services continue to be provided for the community from the existing local and easily accessible base. ***Request that P&K HSCP continue to work jointly with Dundee HSCP to secure this.***
- Linked to this was the recognition of the delivery of enhanced pharmacy services in Invergowrie and it was confirmed that the local pharmacy will soon become a

prescribing pharmacy and the premises is to be refurbished and this will enhance the health care options within the community.

2. Delivering for the strategic health needs of the residents for the Carse of Gowrie

- Concern expressed that a strategic health needs assessment has not been carried out for the whole of the Carse of Gowrie and that the geographical area will now only have one GP practice based at Errol and this is located in a temporary building. The data on the practice contained within the report clearly shows an increasing population since 2002 with a requirement for primary care services. ***Request that P&K HSCP work jointly with Primary Care Services to carry this out and to report back on the outcome.***
- Concern expressed that the Errol Medical Practice is located in a temporary unit with no firm plans for securing permanent premises. Concern expressed that NHS Tayside Board approved the removal of capital projects related to the Carse of Gowrie and Bridge of Earn from the Draft 5-Year Capital Plan at its meeting on 27 April 2023. This was despite the fact that the landlord lease for the temporary building is due to expire in Feb 2025 and temporary planning consent will expire in November 2027, and, without the knowledge of the impact of the termination of the contract for Invergowrie Medical Practice. ***Request that this decision not to prioritise these projects in the Infrastructure Investment Plan needed to be reviewed.***
- The IJB noted the need for a more strategic approach to incentivising training practices in the hope of increasing attractiveness & improving recruitment & retention.

3. Process of options appraisal, timing or public reports and consultation

- Strong view that the options could have been brought forward for consideration at an earlier stage and that this would have allowed for more extensive and appropriate consultation and engagement.
- It was a concern for IJB members that consultation had not been comprehensive and that communication via letter was not sufficient in this context. The IJB wished to draw attention to the [Health and social care - Planning with People: community engagement and participation guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-social-care-planning-with-people-community-engagement-and-participation-guidance/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx) and expressed a view that this had not been followed in this instance and that if it had – the community would have been able to consider and provide possible solutions to some of the issues that will arise as a result of the change. Collaboration with the local community needs to be more realistic and meaningful and should be a key consideration for the strategy for primary care across Tayside.
- The late issue of the public papers did not provide IJB stakeholder members with sufficient time to engage with their communities and communities of interest.

- The Perth and Kinross IJB will receive reports for approval of the Primary Care Services Strategy and associated Premises Strategy and there was a view that this should have been considered in advance of the Invergowrie options appraisal.
- Discontent with the options appraisal which lacked detail and did not demonstrate the requisite processes of consultation and engagement as per SG guidance. This also generated discussion about the possibility of a 2c contractual arrangement and had the IJB been able to consider this situation earlier then this could have been a realistic possibility.
- The IJB comments included a view that if there had been earlier consideration of this matter then other alternatives could have been explored and an interim solution provided until such times as a permanent solution could be achieved.
- ***Request that there is a lessons learned exercise in relation to the timing of meetings and decision-making.***

4. Accessibility of Ancrum Practice for Invergowrie patients

- Impact of additional travel and deficit is recognised within the Equalities Impact Assessment and there was a concern that the mitigations and provision of options for vulnerable residents has not yet been set out to assist in decision-making and to allay patient concerns.
- A very strong concern about the need for a strategic assessment of need arising from transport to travel to the GP practices patients would be dispersed to and an offer of examples of how to carry out this assessment using best practice models.
- A request that the use of digital communications such as Near Me is maximised.
- A request that the local Pharmacy provides the full breadth of services for local residents.

Jacquie Pepper
 Chief Officer
 On behalf of Perth and Kinross IJB