

NOTES OF DISCUSSION WITH NHS HIGHLAND ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2015.

Present:	David Flear	DSG Chairman
	Ronnie Johnstone	DSG member
	Eann Sinclair	CNSRP
	Kirsty McIntosh	DSRL Occupational Health Services
	Mark Whale	DSRL Emergency Arrangements Manager
	Derrick Milnes	Wick and Thurso Trade Union Council
	Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	June Love	DSG Secretariat / HIE Inward Investment
	Elaine Mead	Chief Executive, NHS Highland
	Jill McIvor	Director of Operations (North & West), NHS Highland
	Maimie Thompson	Head of PR and Engagement, NHS Highland

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

David Flear welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the NHS representatives for agreeing to meet. The following was discussed:

- Concerns of potential reduction in services at Caithness General Hospital
 - Want to maintain surgical cover
 - Integral to the aspirations of the area.
 - Previous experience with inward investors is that associated services are available (ie schools, hospital, etc).
 - Trust with the community and local NHS staff
- Dounreay site:
 - Reprofiled plan – closure date now 2029.
 - Recruitment likely to be required over next few years.
 - Requirement to ensure that the emergency arrangements remain
 - Use of Dounreay ambulance service to support Scottish Ambulance service
 - Finite resource and requirement to retain specific cover on site.
- Vulcan site:
 - Decisions on future of the site awaited.
 - Over 300 employed on site at present.
 - Rolls Royce has indicated ambitions beyond Vulcan site – up to 2030.
- CNSRP:
 - Looking to regenerate area post Dounreay
 - Inward Investment activities to attract new business to the area.
- Caithness Chamber of Commerce:
 - Concerned about transport options if patients are required to go to Raigmore.
 - Local businesses have raised this issue through the Chamber.
 - Working in partnership is key to supporting the area.
 - NHS is the 2nd biggest employer in the area.
 - Had invited Health Minister to visit Caithness in the summer.

- Dounreay Stakeholder Group
 - Has a NHS representative on the DSG
 - The NHS representative needs to be briefed regularly to ensure he can address issues.

- Wick and Thurso Trade Union Council
 - Sought assurances that there would be appropriate consultation with staff.

There was a discussion around the various committees set up to look at the options for services going forward in Caithness General Hospital. Those around the table did not understand the structure of the different groups and asked for clarity on this. NHS Highland agreed to provide the roles, remit and memberships of each group.

NHS Highland noted:

- Recognition of socio-economic responsibility in Caithness.
- Employer of a high proportion of high earning individuals locally.
- NHSH wants to be a partner collaborating in developing local solutions?
 - Wants to rebuild trust in the community and work in partnership to safeguard health services.
 - Need to understand and accept that some changes to services are required and all options will need to be considered.
 - NHSH commitment to continuing to provide an emergency response in Caithness
 - Re Dounreay and Vulcan there would be no compromise on emergency arrangements (and opportunity to strengthen)
 - The assessment and stabilisation of injured persons and initial treatment will remain at Caithness General Hospital. Minor injury and trauma will be managed locally and major trauma transferred (as is the case now).
 - Desire is to retain surgical services in Caithness and increase elective surgery.
 - Recognise unique opportunities in Caithness and want to be part of it
 - Needs to address sustainability
 - Use of technology in a different way.
 - Had met with local Councillors
 - Local councillors now on Clinical sub group
 - Plan to undertake wider public engagement (following feedback from various sub groups, etc)
 - Agreed that consultation with staff and public is crucial.
 - Plan to organise a number of roadshows.
 - Committed to socio economics in the area
 - Want to get more involved with STEM activities in area.

ACTIONS

- **NHS Highland to provide information on the Redesign Committee and its sub groups along with the roles, remit and representation.**

- **NHS Highland / DSRL to update and formalise agreement with respect emergency arrangements.**

- **Eann Sinclair, CNSRP to invite NHS Highland representative to CNSRP Advisory Board. (Complete)**
- **Eann Sinclair to provide information on Science Festival (STEM activities). (Complete)**
- **June Love to provide contact details for NHS STEM co-ordinator to DSRL STEM co-ordinator to link in.**
- **Trudy Morris to send NHS Highland invitation to 'Preparing our Young People for Employment' event on 18th February.**
- **Trudy Morris to invite NHS Highland representative to visit Caithness when Health Minister visits.**
- **Kirsty McIntosh to attend (by confertel) Clinicians meeting. (Complete)**

Dounreay Stakeholder Group
12th February 2015