

29 April 2015

Dear parents and patients

**Greater Glasgow and Clyde Children's Diabetes Service – Arrangements for NCH**

For many months there has been uncertainty, and a deal of confusion, over how the diabetes service would be incorporated into the New Children's Hospital.

Many of you are also aware that the aspiration for the service is to evolve to become a 0-25yr service to address many of the concerns over transition and disengagement of young adults from healthcare in relation to their diabetes. This will involve very tight integration of paediatric and adult services to deliver seamless care allied with social support, and possibly also other relevant healthcare elements in a community location (yet to be determined).

After a very fruitful debate with Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, we are delighted to announce that the service will remain on the Yorkhill site, in its current Ward 6B location for outpatient and teaching provision. Inpatient care will be delivered by the team in the New Children's Hospital. There will continue to be clinics in Paisley and Inverclyde.


These arrangements are ideal as they will allow planning and development of the future service while giving us the space to implement some of the provision before we move the whole service to purpose built/developed space elsewhere in the city in 2-3 years. The planning begins now and it is our intention to involve parents and patients (under the auspices of Diabetes Scotland) in this process very soon.


Some of you may feel that staying at Yorkhill is not what you hoped for and would have preferred a move into the new hospital. This is understandable – the new hospital is fresh, new and full of mod cons. However, the work we have done over recent months, and based on feedback from you all, is that we need a different kind of welcoming environment and service for young people with Type 1 diabetes. The new hospital will not deliver this and we have an opportunity now to develop and design that new service without being bound by the timeline of the new hospital and its specific remit.

At the Glasgow Family Group meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April we were asked what the 'line in the sand' was for this process – and we agreed that it was to secure a diabetes centre for families and not have the successful service we have undermined. We have secured that – and secured agreement to develop our service for the future. We will have the leadership of Dr Linda de Caestecker, an NHS GGC Director, supporting us to take this forward with the endorsement of the Chief Executive, Robert Calderwood. It is safe to say that the future of our service has reached the highest level within the health board and is now being prioritised as it should be.

We will need your continued support to make this a reality and many of the actions you pledged on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April will still be needed. We would like to come back to the Glasgow Family Group meeting in the next few months to plan with you how to take this work forward.

Yours faithfully

  
Dr. K J Robertson

  
Jane-Claire Judson