

06 February 2017

## **NHS LANARKSHIRE UNVEILS INTERIM PLANS TO BRING NEW SERVICES TO LOCKHART HOSPITAL**

NHS Lanarkshire and community representatives have set out plans to deliver a range of new services from Lockhart Hospital.

The new services will ensure best use is made of this valuable community asset while progress continues to be made with developing a new model for providing care at the hospital.

The interim plans involve health and social care staff working alongside Healthy Valleys to deliver specialist services and create a community hub that will help reduce isolation and improve health and wellbeing.

There will be a particular focus on rehabilitation and supporting patients with palliative care needs and carers.

NHS Lanarkshire met with elected members from Clydesdale on Tuesday 31 January 2017 to discuss both plans for the new services and the progress with developing a new model of care for the hospital.

Val de Souza, Chief Officer, South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership said: "We had a very positive and constructive meeting where we all agreed on the significant role Lockhart Hospital has played, and should continue to play, within the local community.

"We know that the community's preferred option would be for Lockhart Hospital to reopen to admissions right now. Unfortunately, the continuing challenges with General Practitioner (GP) availability – both locally and nationally mean that this is not possible.

"What is vital is that whatever services are provided at Lockhart, they uphold the legacy and ethos of the hospital as a special place where people know they will be welcomed and well cared for.

"The interim arrangements for the hospital give us the opportunity to do that now in a way that ensures the facility benefits many people throughout the Lanark community and beyond.

"We are still in the early days of the South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

"We will work to ensure that further opportunities presented by the integration of health and social care allow us to support high quality services in Clydesdale, recognising the particular needs and challenges for patients in rural areas and that for some people there will always be the need for 24/7 care."

Lockhart Hospital has continued to be used since admissions stopped last year, with physiotherapy, occupational therapy and Integrated Community Support Team (ICST) based there. Patients have continued to attend the hospital for physiotherapy and occupation therapy during this time.

These services will be expanded to increase the level and amount of rehabilitation being carried out which will allow some patients who would otherwise have gone to Wishaw General Hospital to be treated at Lockhart.

Health and social care rehabilitation staff will also be able to deliver information, advice and therapy to a greater number of patients through group sessions.

An intensive rehabilitation service could also be provided by creating a new community rehabilitation and enablement hub at Lockhart.

These developments will be complimented by a range of existing services provided by Healthy Valleys which will be introduced at Lockhart. Examples include cognitive behavioural therapy counselling, memory cafes, stress management therapies and self-management courses.

There will also be a range of services aimed at children and parents as well as signposting to money advice services and housing support.

These services will work closely with the rehabilitation services and will increase overall support in the area for palliative care patients and carers. Both were raised as key issues by people in Clydesdale during the consultation on NHS Lanarkshire's healthcare strategy last year.

The interim plans for Lockhart Hospital have been developed by a sub group that includes representation from local community groups.

The proposals will be discussed at the meeting of the Clydesdale Services Review Group on 23 February. This group includes representation from Royal Burgh of Lanark Community Council, Clydesdale Locality Health and Social Care Forum, Friends of Lockhart Hospital and the voluntary sector.

Early preparations for the new service will be underway in February with the aim of having a full public launch in the summer.

Progress is also being made with a new model of care for Clydesdale, based on the needs of the community and making use of highly skilled Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs), which would reduce the input required by GPs.

Recent progress includes the appointment of a senior nurse for Clydesdale to lead this work and NHS Lanarkshire has recently advertised for new ANP posts.

ANPs are highly-trained health practitioners with the expert knowledge base, complex decision-making skills and clinical competencies to allow them to carry out many diagnoses and treatments which could previously only be provided by a doctor.

In addition, extra nursing and rehabilitation staff have already been appointed to the ICST in Clydesdale to provide more rehabilitation and care in the community.

Existing nursing staff in Clydesdale are also receiving training to enhance their skills. This has included the use of a skills bus recently based at Lockhart.

Both the plans for new services and an update on the model of care will be presented to the public at the meeting of the Royal Burgh of Lanark Community Council meeting at the end of February.