

Core brief

Friday, 15 January 2016

Introduction

This issue of Core Brief details a statement by the Chairman on finance.

Statement by Chairman on finance

John Brown CBE, Chairman, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, said: “As the Chairman of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde I am concerned that recent media reports of a discussion paper written to help inform the Board’s thinking on the 2016/17 financial position has caused unnecessary concern to our patients, our staff and their trade union representatives.

“The main purpose of this paper was to give the Board some early indication of the potential challenges and opportunities facing NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to help us make an early start on planning our services for next year.

“I want to emphasise that the financial information included in the paper were estimates of the resources that might become available in 2016/17. Therefore at this point in time, the figures quoted in the media should not be seen as the final position.

“In common with all the NHS Boards in Scotland, we are in discussion with the Scottish Government to finalise our budget allocation for the next financial year. Until those discussions are completed it is not possible to make definitive statements on the resources available to us in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. Once budget allocations have been agreed we will share that information with the public, our staff and their representatives.

“In the meantime, our planning for 2016/17 continues and we are not only considering how much of our existing costs will be carried forward into next year but also how our Board can make best use of all our resources by reviewing where we can improve services and reduce costs across NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde.

“It is important to note that the discussion paper that has attracted media interest is not a definite proposal or an approved plan that the Board intends to implement. None of the contents have been approved by the Board or referred to the Scottish Government for consideration. This includes the reported closure of Lightburn Hospital or changes to the services provided by the Vale of Leven Hospital.

“The Board’s review of our existing costs and where we might find efficiencies is being driven by a number principles including giving priority to our patient facing services. We remain committed to

delivering the key NHS targets. We are working with colleagues in the other Health Boards to identify ways to share services in order to improve efficiency and reduce costs. We will also assess the changes that will come from other Scottish Government initiatives such as the National Clinical Strategy which is due to be published in the next few weeks.

“Once this work is completed and we have our final budget allocations the Board will be in a position to fully develop our delivery plans for 2016/17. I expect us to be in this position by the end of February.”

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