



Minute of the Meeting of Cameron Community Council
Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 6.30 pm
Largoward Village Hall

Community Councillors Present: Gordon Ball, Ian Cameron, Katherine Christie, John Picken (Chair), Jay Spankie, Bruce Thomson

1 Apologies

Stephen Lohoar, Innes Wright, Cllr John Docherty, Cllr Linda Holt, Community Police Team representative

2 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

With one minor correction to a place name, the minutes of the meeting of the previous CCC, on 16 January 2019, were approved as an accurate record.

Matters Arising were carried forward to the next meeting on 20 March 2019.

3 Fife Out of Hours Urgent Care Review

The Chair welcomed the members of the community (c30) who were in attendance.

The Chair welcomed visitors from Fife Health and Social Care Partnership (FHSCP):

Dr Seonaid McCallum (Associate Medical Director)

Ms Lisa Cooper (Clinical Services Manager (PCES))

Ms Roz Barclay (Change and Improvement Manager)

The Chair welcomed Dr Angela Anderson, Chair of St Andrews LCC OOH Working Group.

The Chair welcomed Willie Rennie MSP.

The Chair introduced the topic for discussion by recapping the recent history of the provision of Out of Hours (OOH) Urgent Care Service in NE Fife, and the very strong local opposition to the proposed reduction in service which was considered to represent an erosion of frontline services in a rural area already challenged by difficult and dangerous country roads, poor public transport, an average journey time to Kirkcaldy Hospital of 50-60 minutes, an aging population, additional populations (students and tourists) without cars, and a belief that NE Fife had been under-represented on the decision-making Integrated Joint Board (IJB). This opposition had been evidenced at public meetings, an online petition (6500 signatures), a local postcard campaign (over 2000 submitted), criticism of the consultation process as flawed, complaints to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, the creation of a working group by St Andrews CC involving other CCs in the area, and the initiation, by both the St Andrews Working Group and the Glenrothes area residents, of 'Participation Request' procedures to work collaboratively with FHSCP to agree the service provision going forward.

The Chair invited the visitors from FHSCP to outline the current thinking on the provision of OOH service in NE Fife.

FHSCP visitors stated that a decision on the service had not yet been taken and that interim contingency arrangements remained in place. However, acknowledging the strong opposition in NE Fife to proposals to reduce the service, the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) had instructed FHSCP to undertake further consultations and engagement with the NE Fife community and report back on options for service provision. These consultations would include community councils, GP practices and other stakeholders.

There followed a series of questions from CCC and from members of the community to the visitors from FHSCP that covered:

- options for the provision of OOH care in NE Fife
- examples from elsewhere in the UK of service provision in rural areas
- concerns about the impact of a reduction in service on the elderly or on families with children
- assessing the risks associated with closing the OOH facilities in St Andrews and Cupar
- technology-enabled solutions to facilitate GP consultations (but noting issues of poor broadband provision in much of NE Fife)
- impact of OOH service review on the Minor Injuries Unit and on in-patients in St Andrews and Cupar
- reciprocal arrangements between Fife and Tayside health boards to receive patients for urgent care

In summary, FHSCP visitors outlined the following options for consideration under the review of OOH care in NE Fife:

- To have a flexible GP service during the out-of-hours period, combining home visits and appointments at health centres, with response based on clinical need following triage via NHS24 telephone service
- To increase the capacity for home visits during the out-of-hours period
- To have the facility to open up health centres safely (eg, St Andrews Community Hospital) for GPs to meet patients by arrangement during the out-of-hours period, so that patients would not have to travel to Kirkcaldy Hospital except in cases of emergency or extreme cases of need for specialist medical care
- A multi-disciplined approach to responding to out-of-hours calls, by increasing the use of other health professionals, such as nurses and specialist paramedics, in addition to GPs. This would involve the development of training programmes for these practitioners.
- To exercise flexibility in deploying GPs across Fife to meet demand
- To increase the use of technology to facilitate consultations with medical staff in the out-of-hours period

There was broad support for all of these proposals from CCC and from the members of the community in attendance. The FHSCP visitors were asked to report this feedback to the appropriate working groups, in support of the development of appropriate recommendations for the future of OOH service provision in NE Fife.

There was broad agreement amongst CCC and the members of the community that closing the OOH service in St Andrews Hospital was not an acceptable option. The FHSCP visitors were asked to take this feedback to the appropriate working groups on the future of OOH service provision in NE Fife.

FHSCP visitors confirmed that feedback from their engagement with local groups such as community councils would be taken to the relevant working groups, from which a set of recommendations would be collated for presentation to the IJB. Committee papers would be posted on the Fife Council website prior to these meetings, for the public to access.

The Chair thanked the FHSCP visitors for attending this meeting of CCC. The FHSCP visitors left the meeting at this point.

The Chair encouraged all in attendance to keep up the pressure for maintaining an acceptable level of OOH urgent care in NE Fife. The Chair undertook to pass on to FHSCP any further ideas or comments he was sent by members of the community and ended the discussion by stating that ideally the community wanted to see a professional service decision that it can support, rather than having to continue to oppose.

4 AO Urgent CB

No urgent business was raised for discussion.

5 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 20 March 2019, 6.30pm, Cameron Parish Hall.

End of meeting

Proposer:

Seconder:

Date: