

Ms Louise Wheeler
Scottish Health Council
44 Florence Street
Glasgow
G5 0YZ

Date: 30th July 2015

Dear Ms Wheeler

NHS Lanarkshire: Review of Homoeopathy Services and Referrals to the Centre for Integrative Care

Further to our meeting which took place on 8th July, we agreed that I would write to you with further information about the Review of Homoeopathic Services. As we agreed, I have used your letter of 5th November 2014 as a basis for this report.

The reference in the Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment (EDIA) to a potential benefit to service users was in reference to the NHS Lanarkshire's commitment that existing users of the services provided by the Centre for Integrative Care (CIC) would experience no change to their current service provision and would access it until their course of treatment was completed.

In relation to CFS-ME, earlier diagnosis for people with this condition and better access to services will be enhanced by the work that has been ongoing to continue the development of the diagnostic and management/treatment pathways. An additional workstream is developing the role of ME-CFS Champions, that is, professionals who have a specific interest in the condition who would be the patients' advocate and would champion and disseminate best practice. The Champions would be located in the 4 units in Lanarkshire, North West (Bellshill, Motherwell, and Wishaw), North East (Cumbernauld, Airdrie, and Coatbridge), South West (Rutherglen, East Kilbride) and South East Hamilton and Clydesdale

You also made some suggestions to be considered should the Board decide to cease new referrals and my responses are shown below:-

- Currently services in mainstream care due to various factors cannot be coordinated to ensure a person-centred pathway for those patients who need referral to a number of different services. As opportunities arise, this will be looked at in an attempt to improve the patient experience.
- Following the Board's decision on 9th December 2014, communication was clear that as from 1 April 2015 there would be no new referrals of NHS Lanarkshire residents to the CIC for

any service. It was also clear that patients who were already being treated by the CIC would experience no change to their service provision. They will continue to access the services until their course of treatment is completed and they are discharged from the service.

- As independent contractors General Practitioners are able to prescribe as they see fit.
- The purpose of the Review was not to make financial savings and we highlighted at the start of the process that it would be very difficult to identify actual costs. The Review Group's recommendation to the Lanarkshire NHS Board that new referrals should cease was based on the lack of clinical effectiveness evidence for homoeopathy and other health interventions delivered by the CIC.

I trust that my response is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Lauder
Head of Planning & Development