

Ned Sherratt
Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3 40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Date 27 October 2015
Your Ref
Our Ref TPD/AMcM/ac

Dear Mr Sherratt

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1568 (FUNDING, ACCESS AND PROMOTION OF THE NHS CENTRE FOR INTEGRATIVE CARE)

Thank you for your communication of 7 October 2015 seeking further details relating to NHS Lothian patient access to the services provided at the NHS Centre for Integrative Care (CIC) in Glasgow and for information relating to NHS Lothian's Service Level Agreement with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

There are a number of referral pathways to support patient access to the CIC.

NHS Lothian has put arrangements in place for patients seeking Mistletoe Therapy associated with end of life / palliative care treatment to allow Lothian clinicians to refer directly to CIC. Eighteen referrals have been made to CIC for Mistletoe Therapy / end of life care since 1 April 2014.

With regard to homeopathy referrals, as previously stated in NHS Lothian's response to the Public Petitions Committee, referrals to CIC seeking homeopathy treatment is assessed on a case by case basis. If individuals have been seen within NHS Lothian's secondary care services in the previous two years, support for referral is sought from the clinical team (s) involved in care of each individual and requires consultant confirmation the referral should be considered as an exceptional case. If individuals have not been seen within secondary care services, support for referral is sought from NHS Lothian's Medical Director for Primary Care. Since the withdrawal of the NHS Lothian Homeopathy Service on 1 April 2014, 13 homeopathy referrals have been made to the CIC.

The decision to withdraw provision of the NHS Lothian Homeopathy Service did not impact on the service level agreement with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. The service level agreement between NHS Boards does not expire, rather the agreement rolls over from year to year and the value of the agreement is based on an average activity over the preceding three years.

As previously indicated to the Committee, homeopathy activity is included under general medicine activity under the terms of the service level agreement; there is no separate agreement associated with Lothian referrals for homeopathy assessment and treatment at the CIC. The total cost of general medicine activity between NHS Lothian and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, under the terms for the agreement, has increased from £78,740 in 2013-14 to £99,193 in 2015-16.

I hope this further information meets the needs of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

TIM DAVISON
Chief Executive