

PE1568/GG

Scottish Government letter of 26 July 2016

Dear Johann,

Thank you for your letter of 4 July 2016 to Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, regarding the Public Petition Committee's recent consideration of petition PE1568 (funding, access and promotion of the NHS Centre for Integrative Care). I am providing a reply to you as chronic pain policy, including the Centre for Integrative Care (CIC), forms a part of my ministerial portfolio.

You ask for an update on the Scottish Government's position on funding for the CIC. The CIC is operated by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (NHS GG&C), and is therefore commissioned and funded by the NHS Board via their annual revenue allocation. Regarding centralised funding, as advised in our response of 24 July 2015 to the previous Public Petitions Committee on this issue, it is not a matter for Scottish Government to designate a centre or facility as a national resource. Rather, a highly specialised clinical service may be considered for national designation through application to the National Specialist Service Committee. Full information about highly specialised services and the application process for national designation is available at the following website: <http://www.nsd.scot.nhs.uk/%5C%5C/about/nssc.html>.

I would, however, like to take this opportunity to reassure the Public Petitions Committee that there are currently no plans to close the CIC. Your letter references the recent intention signalled by NHS GG&C to consider certain service proposals, which includes a review of CIC inpatient services. While it is right that all NHS Boards keep services under review to ensure they remain safe, sustainable and of the highest quality, no specific proposals have been formally considered locally by NHS GG&C. Furthermore, any such proposals must be consistent with national policy and be subject to appropriate stakeholder engagement.

You also ask for an update on the Scottish National Chronic Pain Management Programme (SNCPMP). The Scottish Government has provided funding of £700,000 per annum to establish the SNCPMP, which is commissioned by NHS National Services Scotland's National Services Division (NSD) and delivered by NHS GG&C.

The programme commenced on 2 November 2015, operating out of an interim facility (Allander House) on the Gartnavel campus in Glasgow.

The plans for a permanent solution are currently being developed and considered by NHS GG&C. All options under consideration by NHS GG&C would see the co-location of the SNCPMP centre with the CIC building, and I am advised that clinical representatives from both are involved in this on-going process. It is important to note, however, that the SNCPMP delivers a different model of care to the services available at the CIC, and will remain a separate nationally commissioned programme.

So far, three groups of patients have taken part in the SNCPMP. Although formal evaluations are still to be completed, early participants rated it highly. Two more groups are scheduled for later this year, and it is expected that the SNCPMP will operate routinely whenever a sufficient number of people are assessed as ready to benefit from the programme.

I hope you find this information to be of help.

AILEEN CAMPBELL