

## **Background**

The Scottish Government has set up an independent Panel to scrutinise, and report on, proposals for significant change in local health services. This paper explains the Panel's role regarding proposed changes to Accident and Emergency services at Ayr Hospital.

## **What is the Panel's Role?**

The role of the Panel is to scrutinise revised proposals for Accident and Emergency (A & E) services in Ayrshire. The aim of this scrutiny is to provide assurance that the revised proposals are:

- Safe, sustainable, evidence-based and represent value for money
- Are robust, patient-centred and consistent with clinical best practice and national policy
- That they take account of local circumstances and the views of individuals and communities affected
- And that all viable service options have been considered.

In order to carry out its role, the Panel will need to:

- Take account of local circumstances and the views of individuals and communities affected by effectively engaging with local people, in liaison with the Scottish Health Council
- Provide a clear, comprehensive and accessible commentary on both sets of proposals in a form also suitable for publication
- And to complete this work by the turn of the year.

## **What are NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Proposals for A & E Services?**

NHS Ayrshire & Arran's proposals set out a range of different options for continuing A & E services at Ayr Hospital. These are summarised in a paper, which was prepared by NHS Ayrshire and Arran which can be downloaded from the Independent Scrutiny Panels' website

[www.independentscrutinypanel.org.uk](http://www.independentscrutinypanel.org.uk) or by contacting the Secretariat on 0141 225 5558. They are set out more fully in NHS Ayrshire & Arran's submission to the Panel, which is available on its website [www.nhsayrshireandarran.com](http://www.nhsayrshireandarran.com)

## **Who Is Involved In The Panel?**

The Panel is Chaired by Dr Andrew Walker, who is a Senior Lecturer in Health Economics at the Robertson Centre for Biostatistics, Glasgow University. Previously, he was Head of Health Economics at Greater Glasgow Health Board.

There are three other Panel members:

1. Dr Ian Anderson, a Consultant in A&E Medicine at Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow.
2. Martyn Evans, Director of the Scottish Consumer Council.
3. Angela Scott, Head of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in Scotland.

Secretariat support for the Panel is provided by the Scottish Health Council.

## **What Process Will The Panel Follow?**

The Panel started its work in September 2007 and is due to report in early January 2008. It will be meeting regularly to review progress. Minutes of the Panel's meetings are published on its website, [www.independentscrutinypanels.org.uk](http://www.independentscrutinypanels.org.uk)

Panel members have visited Ayr Hospital to gain an understanding of it operates at present, and what the practical impact of the proposed options might be.

The Health Board's proposals, and other related information, will be fully scrutinised by the Panel. Where necessary, the Panel can seek additional expert advice to assist it in its work.

The Panel will also be listening carefully to the views of local people.

All of this information will be considered by the Panel when it is preparing its final report.

## **How Will The Panel Hear From Local People?**

The Panel will be considering whether the Health Board has taken proper account of the views that were expressed by local people and communities when it was developing its proposals.

The Panel is also keen to hear the views of local people directly. It wants to know what aspects of the Health Board's proposals people are happy, or unhappy with, and why. There are two ways in which people can give the Panel their views:

**1. By attending a public meeting** – The Panel is organising a public meeting in the two areas within Ayrshire where A & E services are currently provided. Meetings will take place as follows:

- Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Nov – The Park Hotel, Rugby Park, Kilmarnock.
- Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Nov - Princess Royal Conference Centre, Ayr.

Please note that all people wishing to attend these meetings must register their interest with the Scottish Health Services Centre (SHSC), as these meetings are expected to be busy and places are limited for safety reasons.

To register, contact:

Scottish Health Services Centre  
Crewe Road South  
Edinburgh  
EH4 2LF

Or email: [andrew.barker@shsc.csa.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:andrew.barker@shsc.csa.scot.nhs.uk)

Telephone: 0131 275 7749

**2. By sending their views in writing** for the Panel's consideration. The deadline for receiving written submissions is 30<sup>th</sup> November 07. To submit your views in writing to the Panel, contact:

The Secretariat  
Independent Scrutiny Panels  
C/o The Scottish Health Council  
National Office  
Delta House  
50 West Nile Street  
Glasgow

Or email: [scrutiny@scottishhealthcouncil.org](mailto:scrutiny@scottishhealthcouncil.org)

Telephone: 0141 225 5558

### **Feedback for People Taking Part**

The Panel will provide feedback to those who participate in the process. A summary of the Panel's report will be sent to everyone who attends the public events and to those who submit their views to the Panel in writing.