

## **Firrhill Health and Social Care Centre**

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### **Health, Social Care and Housing Committee**

**11 December 2007**

#### **1 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To advise the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee of a proposal to develop an integrated Care Centre in Firrhill in partnership with NHS Lothian.

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 NHS Lothian was invited by the Scottish Government to submit proposals for capital projects for funding from the Primary Care and Community Premises Modernisation Fund. NHS Lothian was given a provisional allocation of £3.49m.
- 2.2 The development objectives for the use of these funds includes:
- continued establishment of Community Health Centres as envisaged in Delivering for Health, to bring services closer to patients both by provision of new facilities and by adaptation of existing facilities;
  - provision of facilities that improve outcomes for patients through more effective joint working with other agencies, in particular local authorities, building on exemplars supported under the programme so far;
  - projects that are seen to be driven by Community Health Partnerships;
  - teaching and training facilities for all Primary Care professionals;
  - projects that support delivery of public authorities' duty to address discrimination against disabled people in the provision of services;
  - support for other recent Scottish Executive initiatives, such as the Review of Community Eyecare Services in Scotland, published in December 2006.
- 2.3 A number of projects were considered within Lothian. The Primary Care Premises Forum concluded that the priority project for submission to the Scottish Government would be the Firrhill proposal as it met more of the objectives than the other projects.
- 2.4 NHS Lothian received confirmation that they were successful in receiving approval of £3.49m from the Scottish Government for the Firrhill Social Care Centre.

## **Detailed Proposal**

- 2.5 The proposed Firrhill Health and Social Care Centre will provide accommodation for the following:
- a) two GP practices, Firrhill Medical Centre and Craiglockhart Medical Practice (Craiglockhart is currently on two sites);
  - b) allied Primary Care services (currently located in Springwell House and McLeod Street Clinic;
  - c) South Central Health and Social Care practice team (staff are currently located at Oxfangs Path Social Work Centre and Victoria Street Social Work Centre;
  - c) a voluntary organisation, MEHIP. This organisation provides a Lothian wide service directly funded by NHS Lothian, currently located in Springwell House.
- 2.6 Both Firrhill and Craiglockhart Practices require additional consulting, treatment and administrative space. Dedicated space for health education, group work, antenatal classes, baby clinics is also required.
- 2.7 The Craiglockhart Practice currently practices in two locations; being in one location will allow for a better service for its patients.
- 2.8 The new centre will bring more services into the Oxfangs/Firrhill area from which the local population currently have to travel to access services such as podiatry and physiotherapy.
- 2.9 The new facility will also seek to maximise the opportunities for integration of services for users through the design and use of the building. It is, for example, envisaged that Health Visitors, District Nurses and Social Workers from both departments would jointly be located in the building, sharing office accommodation and working alongside each other.
- 2.10 The new facility will also provide capacity to support delivery of appropriate strategies such as The Primary Care Modernisation Strategy, The Children and Young People's Strategy and any emerging strategies on access to diagnostic services. These will be more fully addressed in the next stage when the Standard Business Case will be developed. Discussions will be undertaken with Children and Families and Services for Communities on the proposed content of the building.
- 2.11 By providing co-location for health professionals, social work and older people's services, the building will provide a working environment in which all partners will be able to fully develop their commitment to the principles of neighbourhood management in the planning and delivery of local services.
- 2.12 Existing issues around DDA, Health and Safety and Control of Infection guidance will be resolved by creating a building which is compliant. This will provide an improved working environment for all staff.
- 2.13 The development will be on the existing Firrhill site and an adjoining piece of land which is owned by the Council. NHS Lothian will procure the site from City of Edinburgh Council.
- 2.14 It is proposed that the Council will procure the building on behalf of all the intended occupants, who will become tenants of the Council. NHS Lothian will

make a capital grant to the Council for its share of the costs of the building. NHS Lothian will obtain standard security over the future use of the site and building in order to safeguard NHS investment in the long term.

### **3 Impact on Health Inequalities and Public Involvement**

- 3.1 A full Health & Equalities Impact Assessment will be conducted by NHS Lothian Public Health & Health Policy Unit prior to Business Case submission.
- 3.2 A public involvement plan will be implemented during the development of the Standard Business Case, however, responses from the limited consultation that has taken place at this stage of the proposal have indicated that there is support for the co-location of services on the proposed site.

### **4 Resource Implications**

- 4.1 The estimated capital cost of the project is £5.75m. The costings include a 13.5% allowance for Optimism Bias.
- 4.2 £3.491 million will be funded through the NHS Primary and Community Care Premises Modernisation Programme bringing the net capital requirements to £2.26m. £2.991m of the £3.491m of this will be used to provide NHS and GP practice space, £0.500m will be used to provide space for shared use located within the Council part of the building.
- 4.3 The NHS will fund its share through a capital grant to the Council.
- 4.4 The business case will develop the capital and revenue costs associated with this development.

### **5 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee:

- 5.1 notes the approved funding of £3.49m from the Scottish Government Primary and Community Care Premises Modernisation Fund towards the Firrhill Health and Social Care Centre;
- 5.2 agrees in principle to the location of the Health and Social Care staff from Oxfangs Social Work Centre and Victoria Street Social Work Centre;
- 5.3 agrees to receive a detailed business case in March 2008.



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Director of Health and Social Care

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**Appendices**                None

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**Wards affected**

**Background  
Papers**                    None