
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	16 February 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/019/23
Contact Officer:	Diane Sweeney	Contact No:	01475 712147
Subject:	Inverclyde Out of Hours Services – Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire		

1.0 PURPOSE AND CONSIDERATIONS

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire, countersigned by Councillor Clocherty, relative to the out of hours GP service provided in Inverclyde.
- 1.3 The terms of the Notice of Motion are set out in appendix 1 to the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion by Councillor McGuire.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Appendix 1

Inverclyde Out of Hours Services

Council notes that prior to February 2020, Inverclyde was served by a GP Out of Hours Service seven days a week. This service was reduced in February 2020 when the GP Out of Hours service for the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area entered business continuity arrangements.

In March 2020, Councillors McCabe and Moran wrote to the Chair of the Health Board, Professor John Brown, expressing the Council's disappointment at this decision. At the time, the arrangement was intended to be a temporary measure.

Almost three years on, the GP Out of Hours Service remains in business continuity arrangements. In December, the Greenock Telegraph reported that there were no plans to return a full Out of Hours Service to Inverclyde, meaning that many patients would have to travel to Paisley and Glasgow.

Continuing without a full out of hours service in Inverclyde would represent a further downgrading of NHS services in our area and would have a particular effect on the poorest and most vulnerable.

This proposal has created significant concern in the Inverclyde community with over 6000 people signing a petition against changes to out of hours and calling for a full service to be reinstated.

No consultation has been undertaken on plans to permanently reduce the service in Inverclyde. Council believes that any consultation should consider these changes as a major service change, and be open to a full public consultation. Council further believes that for the purposes of consultation, any proposals for change should be measured against the service prior to February 2020 and not after.

Council is asked to express its opposition to Health Board plans not to return a full Out of Hours service to Inverclyde; requests that the Leader of the Council write to the Chair and Chief Executive of the Health Board expressing the Council's opposition and enclosing a copy of this motion; requests that the Leader of the Council writes to Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Community Engagement expressing Council's view that any proposed changes constitute a major service change and should be subject to a full public consultation.

Proposed: Councillor McGuire
Seconded: Councillor Clocherty