

Background

Inverurie was chosen as one of the community pathfinder projects, looking at different communities and services in detail to identify the health and care needs for specific groups, as part of the development of the NHS Grampian Health and Care Framework.

The aim of the pathfinder was to develop a model for health and care services in Inverurie and the Garioch area to help inform future services in Grampian.

This has now progressed to the next stage of the project; planning for the development of a Health and Social Care 'Hub' for the Inverurie Community.

What has happened so far?

A number of planning and engagement exercises were held in the first two years of the Pathfinder, from early 2011. Throughout this process, the health and care needs of the Inverurie population at that time were identified, and what the needs will be in the future. As well as the need for improved GP facilities to accommodate the growing population, it was agreed that additional services should be developed including: enhanced diagnostic and treatment services; GP Acute in-patient beds; and outpatient facilities.

In order to access funding and progress any project, NHS Grampian has to gain approval from the Scottish Government. This process began for the Inverurie project in early 2013.

Masterplan

While the pathfinder in Inverurie was about the health services, the Masterplan was about the space and the hospital site. The Masterplan for the Inverurie Hospital site was developed throughout summer 2013, including two open public consultation events. The Masterplan looked in detail at the space on the hospital site and the potential for future development. This included infrastructure; traffic flow; access etc. which would assist the delivery of developments on the site in future.

The finalised Masterplan for the Inverurie Hospital site was ratified by Aberdeenshire Council on 28 August 2013. This means that the Masterplan will be used as a material consideration for any future planning application that comes forward for the redevelopment of the site. This also ensures that we make best use of the hospital site and consider all of the opportunities and constraints.

Initial Agreement

The Initial Agreement (IA) for the Inverurie Project, which is the first stage of the Scottish Government approval process for any new NHS facility, was approved in October 2013. The IA document sets out the case for change and the need for investment.

Representatives from NHS Grampian management, clinicians, local GPs and GP Practice staff, Local Authority, representatives of local groups and organisations (e.g. Community Council, Doctor Patient Group) and members of the public were all involved in meetings and workshops, and had opportunities to input into the Initial Agreement.

The IA approval covers phases 1 and 2 of the project, to develop the new health centre, Community Maternity Unit (CMU), diagnostic and treatment suite (including x ray), dental unit and a new energy centre, and also includes the enabling works e.g. road access and car parking.

This means that the project can move to stage two of the approval process, preparation of the Outline Business Case (OBC).

How will the project be taken forward?

The first phase will be the development of Medical Practice facilities, to improve the environment in which health and care services are provided. The current Medical Practice, despite the addition of temporary accommodation, is no longer big enough for the growing population, is not fit for purpose to meet modern healthcare building standards and is inadequate for future health and social care service delivery.

A process is underway to identify the preferred site for the development of the Medical Practice, and what the specific requirements for the services and for patients are. While much of the work to date has focussed around the existing hospital site, alternatives will be considered as part of this process.

From now, the Inverurie Project will be progressed in conjunction with a new mental health facility planned for Lochgilphead (NHS Highland). This means that the two projects will be bundled together and delivered in parallel as a single hubCo contract covering two Health Boards. The project will be procured through the Scottish Futures Trust hubCo process with partner hub North Scotland Ltd. (hubCo).

What is hubCo?

hub North Territory (which NHS Grampian is part of) is a consortium which brings together local public sector participants, the Scottish Futures Trust and a private sector development partner (PSDP). The hubCo PSDP hub North Scotland Ltd will be responsible for the delivery of the facilities.

This process of procurement called Design, Build, Finance and Maintain (DBFM) means that the project will be funded, designed, delivered and maintained by hub North Scotland Ltd throughout the first 25 years, after which ownership of the building will transfer to NHS Grampian. During this period NHS Grampian will pay a monthly service charge to hubCo.

Who is responsible for the project?

To support delivery of the project a revised project structure is being put in place to ensure that the team has the relevant knowledge and experience to support the Practice and Community Health Partnership (CHP) to successfully deliver the project.

The Project Director will be Jackie Bremner from the NHS Grampian Modernisation Directorate who is currently involved in similar projects elsewhere in Grampian and Highland. There will also be a joint Project Board which will oversee the bundle (Inverurie and Lochgilphead).

A number of subgroups will be established to take forward specific tasks, including the Communication & Involvement Group which will continue, and patients, carers and members of the public will continue to be involved throughout the process.

What happens next?

Approval of the Initial Agreement allows us to move on to the next stage of the process required to access funding for the development. Stage two of this process is Outline Business Case (OBC). The OBC will now be developed and will include detailed plans and timescales for the new Health Centre facility.

Timeline

The timetable below outlines the key milestones for the first phase of the project (new Medical Practice facilities). Work will continue in parallel to this to plan for further phases of the Health and Social Care 'Hub'.

| Milestone | Date |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Outline Business Case | Summer 2014 |
| Full Business Case | Spring 2015 |
| Construction | Summer 2015 to Autumn 2016 |
| Commissioning | November 2016 |
| Opening of new Medical Practice | December 2016/January 2017 |

What area / population will be affected by the potential changes?

The developments in Inverurie will concentrate initially on the Practice population. Inverurie Medical Practice population is currently 21,000, which is the largest single practice in Scotland. Further phases of the project will look at the wider Garioch area.

What services will be provided from the new Health & Social Care 'Hub'?

The list below is a summary of the accommodation to be provided in the new facility:

- General Practice (GP) accommodation which will include community nurses, health visitors and minor surgery;
- Community Maternity Unit;
- Dental Unit;
- Diagnostic and Treatment Suite, Out-patient accommodation for visiting consultants, X ray, space for Allied Health Professionals e.g. physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and podiatry.

Following the review of maternity services in Grampian, Inverurie was identified as the location for a new (CMU) in Aberdeenshire. More information about the maternity review can be found on the NHS Grampian website at www.nhsgrampian.org/maternityreview.

There are no plans to remove any of the services currently provided in Inverurie, or that are provided by the Inverurie Medical Practice (including Kintore Medical Centre).

As part of the Outline Business Case process, we will identify the best location in Inverurie for any potential development. This means that we will be considering the existing hospital site, along with others.

How can I get involved with the project?

As the project progresses, there will be opportunities available to get involved. Visit the Inverurie pathfinder pages on the current projects section of our website www.nhsgrampian.org/involvingyou to keep up-to-date with current developments.

If you would like to be added to the e-mail circulation list to receive future project updates and notice of events and opportunities to be involved, please e-mail andrea.gray@nhs.net.