

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership

MEDIA RELEASE

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Proposed Relocation of GP Practices into Cowal Community Hospital

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is working in partnership with two GP Practices in Dunoon (Church Street Surgery & Cowal Medical Practice) on a proposal to relocate the Practices into Cowal Community Hospital.

At present, the proposal is under development and there are a number of approval stages to clear before it can proceed to implementation.

The relocation will provide an opportunity for the two Practices to merge leading to a more sustainable GP Practice which would enhance and develop services currently available for patients within fit for purpose accommodation.

All of the partners involved are committed to working closely with patients, staff, the local community and other stakeholders on an ongoing basis to ensure that there is effective communications and engagement throughout the development of the project.

This proposal has the backing of Argyll and Bute HSCP and the two GP Practices involved. The next stage is to secure the required funding. Once funding is secured the project will be taken forward to develop final construction requirements before any building works commence.

Notes to editors: The HSCP approached all three GP Practices in Dunoon in relation to the proposed relocation to Cowal Community Hospital and two of the Practices (Church Street Surgery & Cowal Medical Practice) decided to move forward with the proposal.

The appropriate redesign of vacant space within Cowal Community Hospital would provide the two Practices with an opportunity to develop and deliver flexible services now and into the future. It would also address existing issues around Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance for both practices and provide patients with mobility issues easier access. The relocation would also provide fit for purpose accommodation addressing existing issues of inequalities of access, patient confidentiality and appropriately sized and configured clinical spaces.

The two Practices have undertaken positive and enthusiastic discussions with a view to merging into one single Practice with a preference to be in the hospital. This would include potentially taking on responsibility for the medical services provided within the hospital as well, which would provide significant benefits to patients in terms of continuity of care, enhanced integration of services and the expansion of primary care services. It is also believed it would support improved recruitment, retention and sustainability of local services.