

**MAKI Area Committee (Argyll & Bute Council)
Colonsay Community Nursing Service Update
3rd December 2008.**

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1. Colonsay Community

1.1 Colonsay has a resident population of 126 people. Of this total, 10 are primary school aged children and 3 are preschool aged children.

2. Health Service Provision

2.1 The General Practitioner, Dr. John Currie is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for emergencies. Surgery times are 9- 10am and 5- 6pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. A locum GP provides holiday cover for Dr Currie.

2.2 The Colonsay community nursing team is part of a wider geographical nursing team (Clachan/Seil/Easdale/Colonsay) in order to provide professional support and supervision for the lone nurse based on Colonsay. In terms of governance, continuing professional development and absence cover this ensures a safer more sustainable nursing service to the community of Colonsay.

2.3 The Colonsay community nursing service currently comprises 20 hours per week of qualified nursing input and 10 hours per month of health care assistant input. Five of the qualified nursing hours are currently resourced by Argyll and Bute Council's Social Work department to support and supervise the home care staff, undertake joint visits, liaise with social work, plan respite care, undertake CARENAP assessments and reviews and undertake assessments re the use of telecare equipment. These five hours are subject to annual review.

2.4 The current nursing service provision was recently reviewed by the community nursing team leader and 20 hours are considered to be sufficient to meet the current health needs of the communities' 126 residents. The hours have been determined by reviewing the health needs of the community, utilising the clinical expertise and experience of the community nursing team leader.

2.5 There have been ongoing difficulties recruiting a substantive post holder to the Colonsay nursing post and we are currently advertising the community nursing vacancy for the third time in two years. In consultation with the community, Argyll and Bute CHP have placed a copy of the job advert in the Corncrake, the monthly Colonsay community newspaper, in the hope that this will provide wider distribution, alongside the normal advert on the Scottish Government Health Department website and internal notice boards.

2.6 In the absence of a post holder based on the island and in order to ensure continuity of nursing provision, Argyll and Bute CHP are currently providing a nurse from the mainland Wednesday- Friday. We are hopeful that the current vacancy advert will attract applicants.

3. Home Care Provision

- 3.1 There are currently 3 members of homecare staff based on Colonsay who provide a total of 84.25 hours of community based support for residents on the island, comprising 61.75 hrs free personal care and 22.5 hrs domestic care.

4. Joint Working

- 4.1 Argyll and Bute CHP and Argyll and Bute Council have worked closely together to ensure a safe and sustainable service delivery to the community of Colonsay. Recent staffing shortages within the home care team on Colonsay have been covered by a community nurse and a member of the Integrated Care Team based in Oban to ensure continued service provision.
- 4.2 Kilchattan Schoolhouse on Colonsay has been leased under a short term agreement from Argyll and Bute Council from 6th August 2007- 31st March 2008 for use by a community nurse who undertook a short term contract on the island. The rent was nil and the NHS and Council agreed to the nominal fee of a reimbursement to the Council of the cost of the buildings insurance. This allowed Argyll and Bute CHP to provide a resident nursing service over the course of Monday- Friday, as opposed to the concentrated service provision (Wednesday- Friday) which is currently provided.
- 4.3 Argyll and Bute Council have expressed a continued willingness to negotiate a lease agreement in relation to Kilchattan schoolhouse if Argyll and Bute CHP are successful in recruiting to the current community nursing vacancy.

5. The Remote Services Futures Project

- 5.1 The Remote Service Futures is a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Project which has Colonsay as one of its participating communities. It aims to work with stakeholders to design sustainable services for the future of small, peripheral communities. Stakeholders in the project include local members of the community, health and social care professionals, the NHS, the Council, community planning, voluntary organisations, the Scottish Ambulance Service, education providers, politicians and any others with an interest in the local and wider community.
- 5.2 The idea of the project is to facilitate exchange of information within and between stakeholders to help ease decision-making about what services should be like in the future. The role of the project is to facilitate stakeholders in: identifying their service requirements; identifying information needs; locating information; taking information to stakeholders and working with them in using it to plan sustainable services for the future. The project seeks to involve stakeholders in innovative ways. One outcome of the project should be service design plans for the communities that have emerged from stakeholder's ideas and that are realistic and informed. The idea of the project is that stakeholders are integrated in the planning process and therefore service designs that emerge are consensual and can be implemented.
- 5.3 The project aims to develop within NHS Highland the knowledge, skills and understanding to devise and implement new methods of public engagement, with the ultimate goal of producing a toolkit to facilitate remote and peripheral service reconfiguration involving all stakeholders, particularly the public.