

Mr Jeff Ace
Chief Executive
Mid North
Crichton Hall
Bankend Road
Dumfries
DG1 4TG



12th September 2018

Dear Jeff

Response from Area Clinical Forum regarding the proposal for potential development of a “Maggies” Centre in Dumfries

Following a recent request from yourself on behalf of the NHS Board to consult with Area Clinical Forum (ACF) to seek clinical opinion on the above proposal I am pleased to be able to provide you with a formal response.

The proposal was circulated to each of the individual Professional Advisory Committees (8 in total – listed below) for consideration and discussion over the summer and then brought to ACF for further collective consideration on 22nd August 2018. At this meeting there were representatives from Maggie's in attendance to present their case and to answer any outstanding questions and there were representatives from the board and the clinical team who currently deliver the service.

The feedback received from individual committees following consultation was all very similar and the consensus from ACF was that the proposed model of a buildings based service located on the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary site would not be the preferred option for Dumfries and Galloway.

In coming to this conclusion the following were considered by the committees and ACF to inform this decision:

- Acknowledgement that Maggie's provides a very good service which many of our local population already access at the major cancer centres in Glasgow and Edinburgh when they attend there for treatment but people use these centres because they are on site and not because we are unable to meet their needs locally.
- The local connections to the area for Maggie's related to their founder Maggie Keswick Jenks were acknowledged as was the iconic architecture of their buildings.
- Acknowledgement that locally we currently provide similar services to this patient group via our Cancer Information Centres based in DGRI, Galloway Community Hospital and in Newton Stewart which are run and supported by staff and volunteers who deliver a wide range of services to support patients and their carer's.
- Whilst Maggie's delivers an excellent service to cancer patients it was felt that we require investment in a palliative service locally that supports other palliative diagnoses as well as cancer (and whilst

Maggie's alludes to considering this in the future it is not explicit re when this might happen)

- The potential inequity of access for all residents of Dumfries and Galloway (especially those living further east and west) if a Maggie's was built on DGRI site with the distance to travel being equal to or more than patients currently undertake to go to one of the other sites. This centralised model does not currently fit with the ambitions related to health and social care integration of bringing services closer to people's homes.
- The financial implications for the organisation for what was felt to be uncertain additional benefit to what we already provide— initial capital costs and recurring costs and the impact this might have on existing services or how this money could be spent developing these services. Concerns raised regarding certainty that there will be suitable charitable contributions to support this on an ongoing way. It was also unclear as to whether some of the funding for this project could come from endowments and if so this would be to the detriment of other areas.
- The misunderstanding that might arise when patients think that having a Maggie's Centre in Dumfries will reduce the requirement to travel to Glasgow and Edinburgh for treatment which will not be the case.
- Availability of land on DGRI site to build a centre as this land may be required in the future for expansion or development for acute services.

Although ACF do not support the development of a Maggie's Centre within the acute infirmary site in Dumfries they do wish to endorse the work that Maggie's does and would welcome the opportunity to further engage with them to explore how we could work together to further develop services for both our cancer and palliative patients across Dumfries and Galloway.

Lorna Carr

Lorna Carr
Chair – Area Clinical Forum

List of Advisory Committees:

- Area Medical Committee
- Area Nursing and Midwifery Committee
- Allied Health Professional Advisory Committee
- Area Pharmaceutical Committee
- Area Psychology Advisory Committee
- Area Dental Advisory Committee
- Area Optical Committee
- Healthcare Scientists Committee