

Integration Joint Board

27th September 2018

This Report relates to
Item 7 on the Agenda

Moffat – Provision of GP Services

(Paper presented by Dr Greycy Bell)

For Approval

Approved for Submission by	Dr Greycy Bell, General Practitioner
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List of Background Papers	Not applicable
Appendices	Appendix 1 Map showing Combined Practice Area

SECTION 1: REPORT CONTENT

Title/Subject:	Moffat – Provision of GP Services
Meeting:	Integration Joint Board
Date:	27 th September 2018
Submitted By:	Dr Greycy Bell, General Practitioner
Action:	For Approval

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In April 2018, Health and Social Care Senior Management Team members agreed to proposals within a paper on Future Provision of GP Services in Moffat was circulated for approval. Members agreed to the proposals within the paper and to consolidate GP services in Moffat, transferring the registered patients at the Church Place Surgery to the High Street Surgery, which has been managed by the Health and Social Care Partnership since October 2016.
- 1.2 This report provides details of the options for current and future arrangements for providing general medical services to the registered population of the combined practice in Moffat. It describes a number of changes that are being progressed in order to ensure the continued, sustainable provision of general medical services in the Moffat area.
- 1.3 The drivers behind these changes are:
 - The need to continue to directly provide services to the patients of High Street Surgery, Moffat;
 - The need to directly provide services to the patients of the current Church Place Surgery, Moffat following the resignation of the GMS Contract by the GPs in the Church Place Surgery with effect from 1st October 2018;.
 - The opportunity to provide a single GP service within the Moffat area with a rationalised practice boundary;
 - The need to assess the provision of services at the Johnstonebridge branch surgery;
 - The continuing GP recruitment difficulties within Dumfries & Galloway and specifically in Moffat; and
 - The need to provide a practice that is sustainable in the longer term.
- 1.4 With effect from 1 October 2018, the Health Board will take responsibility for the provision of GP services for the patients currently registered with the Church Place Surgery in Moffat following the resignation of the GPs. To ensure the continued provision of GP services to these patients, they will transfer across to the High Street Surgery – currently run by the Health and Social Care Partnership.

- 1.5 The significant difficulties of recruitment to the Moffat medical workforce mean that providing safe GP services will be very challenging for the newly combined practice and consideration needs to be given to how the practice can be supported to deliver safe and effective GP services.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- **Support the proposed engagement with the Johnstonebridge surgery community and with local GP practices and the local GP profession to explore the options for the provision of GP services to patients who currently access GP services at the Johnstonebridge branch surgery.**

3. Background

- 3.1 There have historically been two GP practices based in Moffat: the High Street Surgery and the Church Place Surgery, providing GP services to approximately 5,500 patients between them. Both practices provide a dispensing service to patients at their respective branch surgeries.
- 3.2 This consolidation of service provision will provide GP services to the registered population of approximately 5,500 across an area of 315 square miles stretching from Abington in the North to as far as Parkgate, Templand and Sibbaldbie in the South. A map is attached for information.
- 3.3 Providing services across multiple sites has been identified as a key risk factor in the sustainability of GP practices. The combined practice will have 2 branch surgeries to support – one at Leadhills and one at Johnstonebridge – 30 miles apart.
- 3.4 Approximately 800 patients (650 resident in Lanarkshire) access services at the Leadhills branch surgery. GP services to patients in Wanlockhead, Crawford, Leadhills and surrounding areas was reviewed in late 2016 and resulted in branch surgery services from the three sites being consolidated at the Leadhills branch surgery.
- 3.5 Work is ongoing to understand the number of patients who access services at the Johnstonebridge surgery. Initial analysis suggests that 15 to 20 patients per week attend a GP appointment at Johnstonebridge surgery across the two sessions (Tuesdays and Fridays). In addition, around 3 patients per week attend a weekly nurse led surgery on a Wednesday at Johnstonebridge. There are a proportion of those attending Johnstonebridge who do so on a regular basis and this will be further analysed.
- 3.6 Currently there are two GP consulting sessions of 90 minutes at Johnstonebridge. One practice nurse session is also provided at the branch site.
- 3.7 The combined practice will provide medical cover for the 12 bedded Moffat

Community Hospital and all 44 patients at Singleton Park Care Home, Parkgate (12 miles from Moffat) are registered with the practice. There is also a residential home in Moffat.

- 3.8 Recent attempts to recruit 2.5 additional GPs to the combined practice have not been successful. The practice has been operating since October 2016 with one salaried GP and locum GP cover including 2 long term locums. There is no indication that further recruitment drives will change this situation and the two long term locums have indicated they are nearing retirement and are not a long term solution.
- 3.9 Recruitment of 1, possibly two ANPs is currently being considered to support the workforce and an increase in pharmacy support is being explored.

4. Main Body of the Report

- 4.1 Current and predicted clinical staffing levels for the single Moffat surgery will make it very difficult to staff a safe GP service from the branch surgery at Johnstonebridge. To maintain the current service would mean a GP from the main surgery taking a minimum of 4 hours a week away from the Moffat surgery to support the Johnstonebridge branch surgery.
- 4.2 Recruitment initiatives will continue to be explored. Meantime, without additional GP recruitment it will only be possible, at the most, to provide a GP session at Johnstonebridge once per week, not the current twice per week on a Tuesday and Thursday. This will be implemented with immediate effect from 1st October 2018. This will be closely monitored and there may be times when it is not safe to provide GP services at Johnstonebridge; patients will be asked to attend for appointment at the Moffat surgery.
- 4.3 Four potential options have been identified for the provision of GP services to those patients who attend Johnstonebridge branch surgery:
- Option 1 – Continue to access GP, Practice Nurse and dispensing services from Johnstonebridge as currently provided.
 - Option 2 – Continue to access GP and Practice Nurse services from Johnstonebridge with dispensing arrangements being withdrawn. Patients would need to collect any prescription medicines from a community pharmacy.
 - Option 3 – Withdraw GP, Practice Nurse and dispensing services from Johnstonebridge with patients being offered continued provision at the Moffat surgery or, where resident, within another practice area registration with that practice if they choose.
 - Option 4 – Withdrawal of all GP, Practice Nurse and dispensing services from Johnstonebridge and a realignment of Moffat and other practice boundaries allowing for alternative patient registration arrangements.

- 4.4 A three month engagement period is proposed to commence early in October to engage with the local population. This may result in further options being identified for consideration.
- 4.5 The engagement plan will include lettering affected patients to seek their views and concerns, attendance at the local Community Council meetings and holding drop-in sessions at the Johnstonebridge surgery.
- 4.6 Engagement with other GP practices whose practice boundaries may require change will also be progressed.
- 4.7 GP Sub-Committee will be consulted for their professional view.
- 4.8 An options appraisal will be undertaken early in the New Year with the preferred option being brought back to the committee for consideration thereafter.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The number of general practitioners available in the whole system across Scotland will not support the continuation of the provision of general medical services in its current form.
- 5.2 The failure to recruit two and a half additional salaried GPs to the new single practice means that the provision continues to rely on significant input from locum GPs at a time when locum availability is limited and difficult to employ.
- 5.3 Running a practice with locum doctors who may change from week to week does not support the provision of a safe and effective service and does not deliver continuity of care for patients. This would result in an unsustainable and unsatisfactory service at potentially extremely high cost.
- 5.4 By taking the opportunity to address, at Moffat, some of the risk factors which influence the sustainability of general practice, it is hoped that the practice viability can be improved in the longer term and become a more attractive proposition to return to independent contractor status.

SECTION 2: COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

6. Resource Implications

- 6.1 Primary Medical Services funding currently allocated to the independent contractor practice would be available to support the enlarged practice.
- 6.2 Development support within the locality would be needed in the immediate implementation phase and it is envisaged this is manageable within current resources.

7. Impact on Integration Joint Board Outcomes, Priorities and Policy

- 7.1 This proposal is consistent with the locality plan for Annandale and Eskdale and all the local integration 9 national outcomes.

8. Legal & Risk Implications

- 8.1 Legal and risk implications associated with re-provision of service have been considered and none identified. This will be monitored and reviewed throughout the project work.

9. Consultation

- 9.1 Through the “Transforming Health and Social Care Service in Annandale and Eskdale” project, consultation with the public commenced on 20 November 2017. This consultation included the option to investigate the merging of the two Moffat GP practices and whilst the evaluation of the consultation is on-going, feedback from the public does support the model for a single GP practice in Moffat.
- 9.2 Consultation with patients and public will be developed as part of the implementation plan

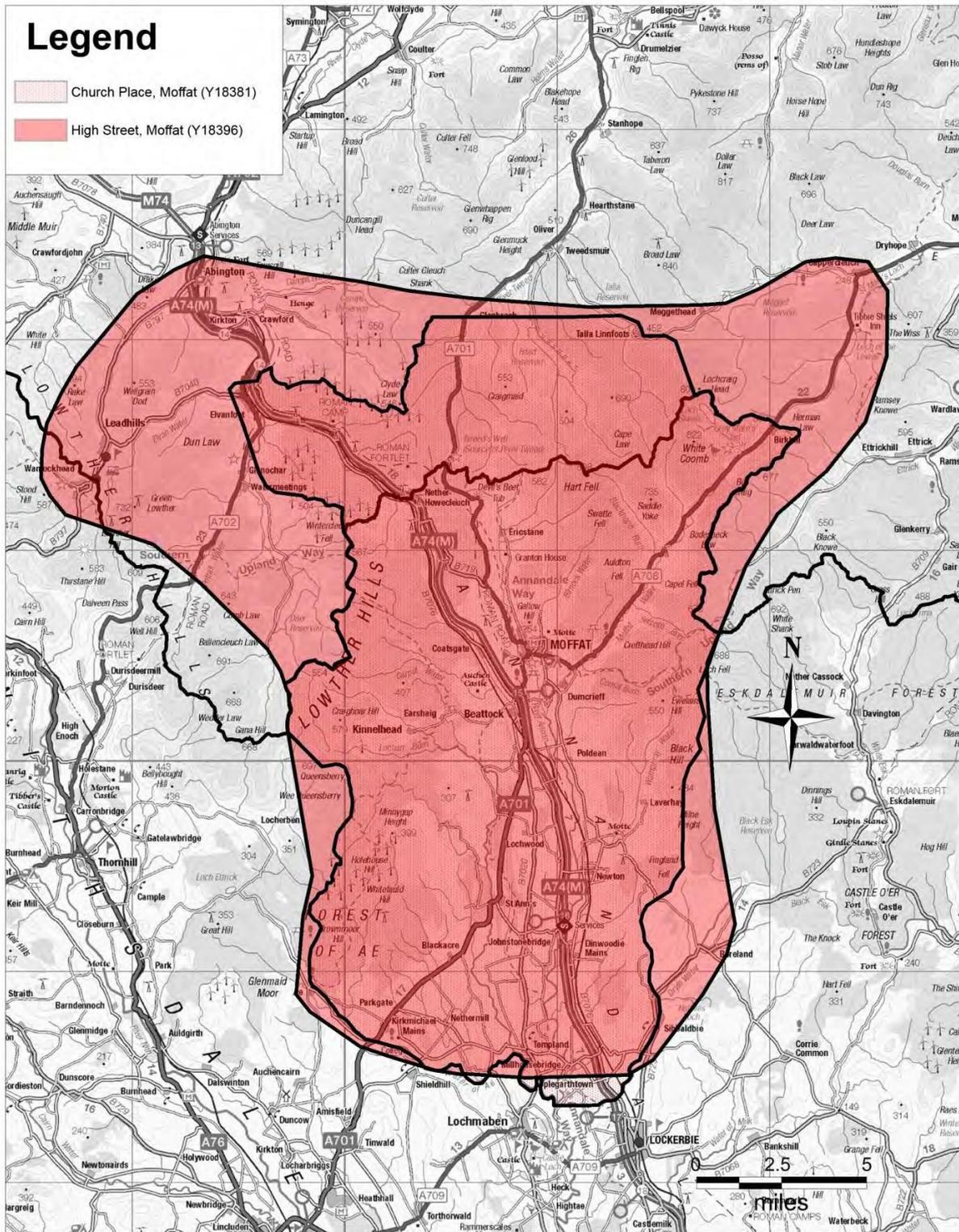
10. Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment

- 10.1 Assessment will be undertaken as part of the development plan.

10. Glossary

GMS	General Medical Service
GP	General Practitioner
HSCSMT	Health and Social Care Senior Management Team

Appendix 1 Map showing Combined Practice Area



Map of High Street, Moffat and Church Place, Moffat Combined GP Practices

Scale = 1cm : 2.25km

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