

**Royal Edinburgh Hospital Patients' Council**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Board Room, Royal Edinburgh Hospital**  
**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

## **NOTES**

We would like to offer a big thank you to the 17 people who attended the meeting, despite the atrocious weather conditions. Special thanks are due to Albert Nicolson who did an excellent job of chairing the meeting, literally at a moment's notice; and Dick Fitzpatrick, who accepted our invitation to address the meeting, at extremely short notice. His presentation was nevertheless very informative, interesting and enjoyable – thank you, Dick.

### **Welcome, Apologies, Code of Conduct and Address**

Albert welcomed everyone to the meeting and pointed out the Ground Rules for behaviour at our meetings. Apologies were received from Patricia Whalley, Alison Robertson, Patricia Gray, Ross McPhail, Tony Chan, Lesley Smith, Alan Muir, Rosemary Carter, Chris Mackie, Ruth Rooney and Tim Montgomery.

**Dick Fitzpatrick** is the Project Manager for the reprovisioning of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

Dick reflected on the history of the hospital, what we have done with it, and plans for the future. He acknowledged the support of the Patients Council in keeping the reprovisioning process moving along, often in very difficult circumstances.

The hospital's history began with an appeal in 1792. Construction started in 1806 and the hospital opened in 1813. It was redesigned in 1837. Dr William Mackinnon, who ran the hospital in the mid-1800s, was keen for people to use their existing abilities and practical skills – there was a magazine, garden, vegetable plots, curling pond and a variety of arts and crafts – we are beginning to focus on similar activities again today!

In 1922, the hospital was renamed The Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Buildings constructed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century included the Church Centre and Kinnair (now listed buildings which must be retained), and the Andrew Duncan Clinic which is no longer fit for purpose. There are newer buildings on the North of the site and the orchard area is undeveloped. The site map shows the ad hoc nature of the buildings, resulting in very poor traffic flow and parking provision. There is lots of green space, which everyone is keen to retain, but it is poorly used at present. Current in-patient accommodation is poor.

The architects were asked to design a modern hospital with single rooms which can cope with changing needs to enable long-term use; to consider traffic flow and parking; to look at what use could be made of the existing buildings; and to consider the overall look of the site.

The design incorporates a series of two and three storey buildings, similar to the Jardine Clinic, with a maximum of around 570 beds (not all of which will be mental health beds) on the site. In patient accommodation will be in two storey buildings, each able to have ground floor access because of the sloping site. Each floor will have two 15-bed wards with a shared central area, with some bedrooms in the centre with lockable partitions which will allow them to be used by either ward, male or female, according to need. Bigger rooms will be provided for older people. There will be lots of smaller sitting areas and in-house therapy space. Every ward will look out on to green space. Development will be on a phased basis.

The buildings will be round the sides of the site. Mackinnon House will accommodate administration and support activities. All its 'add-on' buildings will be removed and a 'village green' and possibly a 'courtyard' area will be provided in the middle of the site. A new

entrance will be opened at Myreside with parking at both ends of the site and restricted traffic flow through the site. Community gardens will be sited on the South side. Kennedy Tower, which belongs to the University, is likely to stay. The bowling green has to stay.

The plans offer good use of the site while retaining what people have said they want. It will be more of a community facility, inviting the community in. No firm timeline has yet been decided, due to funding considerations.

This masterplan has been well received everywhere, including the Senior Management Team and the Financial and Performance Review Committee, who have decided to retain the Royal Edinburgh site in its entirety.

Comments and questions from the floor covered the following:

The design is excellent. There was some concern about the long walk from Morningside - a good bus service along Myreside Road will be needed. The Church Centre is likely to remain as The Hive. The shop will be retained. Speed cameras were suggested. People were pleased that the Morningside entrance will be retained.

### **Notes of AGM on 30 November 2009**

These were approved.

### **Annual Report and Financial Report**

The Annual Report includes our new logo, a gift from the company who are developing our new website. AdvoCard took over as our host agency in October 2009. They provide a different accounting process, clearer information and better communication. Their accountants, Alexander Sloan, have been very helpful in producing our annual report and financial report. AdvoCard receives the grant from the NHS, keeps enough money to cover staffing and management costs, and remits the balance to the Patients Council. This balance is the money accounted for in the Patients Council's financial report. The surplus was created as a result of cautious spending in the past when financial information was unclear, and a staff post being unfilled for a time. The sum of £14,507 was received from NHS Endowments to provide collective advocacy in the Care of Older Adults service and the Children & Adolescent Mental Health service. This funding will run out at the end of March 2010. We are hopeful that the NHS will find a means to continue funding this project.

Lesley Boyd (NHS Health Inequalities Manager and commissioner for the Patients Council) thanked the Patients Council for the huge amount of work they have been doing, and AdvoCard for the excellent financial information.

### **Election of Members of the Management Committee**

Kate Cullen, Shirley Gowers, Albert Nicolson, Alison Robertson and Patricia Whalley were re-elected. Bruce McNally, a previous member of the Management Committee, was elected.

### **First meeting of the new Management Committee**

This will take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

### **AOCB**

- a) Our current co-opted members of the Management Committee are Cathy Robertson, Ross McPhail, Leah Marchbank, Alan Muir and Ronnie Jack.
- b) We offered a supply of the Consultation document for Edinburgh Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support Services 2011-1016 and the Commissioning Plan for Adult Services., for people to take away.
- c) VoX still have some spare places at its winter members meeting in the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow, 10am, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December with lunch to follow. Members will be asked what issues VoX should be concentrating on.