

NHS Forth Valley has responsibility for improving the health of the population of Forth Valley. We can only do this if we work in partnership with the three Councils in Forth Valley, other public sector agencies, the voluntary and private sector, staff, patients and the public.

Together with our partners, NHS Forth Valley will aim to develop services that will:

- Maintain and promote good health
- Maximise physical and mental well-being, function and ability, independence and quality of life
- Ensure care is provided to meet assessed need by the provision of a spectrum of social and health services
- Provide a full range of assessment and rehabilitation services
- Facilitate access to continuing care in care homes or hospital as needs require

We have good reason to be optimistic about the overall picture of health in Forth Valley. The health of the population as a whole continues to improve and the decline in coronary heart disease in younger people is very encouraging. However, in common with the rest of Scotland, the health of the population of Forth Valley lags behind that of the rest of the United Kingdom, and there is still a significant difference between the health of the most affluent and the most deprived.

Health Plan Summary



In partnership with other agencies, in the last twelve months the NHS in Forth Valley has achieved:

Access to services

- The challenging target to have no-one waiting more than 9 months for in-patient or day case treatment by 31st March 2003 was met.
- Reduction in the number of patients affected by delayed discharges including 77 additional Care Home places purchased, increased NHS capacity, increasing flexibility of bed use.

Health Improvement

- Further work to reduce the number of smokers in Forth Valley including; the successful pilot of three new out-of-hours drop-in clinics for smoking cessation in Alloa, Falkirk and Stirling and work to change the smoking behaviour of young people.
- Further work to improve diets including the Forth Valley "Food Links" project (first in Scotland) which aims to improve accessibility to fresh food; the appointment of Community Food Development Workers; and the introduction of breakfast clubs, early years fruit scheme and 'Food Dudes'.
- Appointment of Public Health Capacity posts for each council, four Public Health Practitioners, three Health Development Workers for New Community Schools and training of 20 Public Health nurses.
- The national target for uptake of flu vaccination was exceeded.
- New disease prevention measures included the development of programme of neonatal screening and a successful out of hours well man clinic in Falkirk
- Launch of "Feel Good Falkirk" a joint approach with Falkirk Council to the delivery of Health Improvement Initiatives, which include the involvement of local communities.

Children

- Further work to improve oral health including: oral health packs for 6-8 month olds attending their child health checks and toddlers up to age 3, a pre-5 oral health pack was developed for primary care staff and Dental Practice Adviser was appointed.

- The production of a draft Child Health Strategy focussed on the needs of children.

Learning Disability

- The new Learning Disability inpatient ward, Loch View, opened on the RSNH site in January 2003.

Cancer

- A major review of Cancer Services with the West of Scotland Region in support of the Beatson Oncology Service in Glasgow including increased investment in imaging services (both staff and equipment), additional MRI sessions which have significantly reduced waiting times, and new equipment to improve access to cancer investigation, diagnosis and treatment.

Older People

- Continued implementation and development of joint health and social community care as part of the Scottish Executive's 'A Joint Future'.

Substance Use

- Further work on substance abuse including the launch of "SIGNPOST" drug advice service and a website, and the development of an alcohol plan.

Patient focus public Involvement

- Comprehensive public involvement in the development of the Forth Valley Healthcare Strategy which resulted in over 5,000 responses from people and organisations and decisions taken to proceed with work to create a single acute hospital for Forth Valley and to further involve the public in developing community health services.
- Establishment of a three-year project to engage mental health service users in the development of services.

Healthcare Associated Infection

- Improved infection control and standards of hospital cleanliness were achieved - this work will continue this year.

In the next twelve months we pledge to:

HEALTHCARE STRATEGY

- Work in partnership with local communities to develop community based health services.
- Plan for the new hospital in Forth Valley and the community hospital in Clackmannanshire.

CORONARY HEART DISEASE

Subject to the success of funding bids:

- Appoint an additional heart specialist to improve the outpatient waiting times for cardiology.
- Improve access to specialist heart failure services.

CANCER

- Appoint a colorectal cancer nurse specialist.
- Appoint an additional Consultant Haematologist.
- Invest in clinical psychology staff to support cancer patients.
- Increase public awareness of bowel and oral cancer.
- Increase patient feedback on current cancer services.

STROKE

Subject to the success of funding bids provide:

- Enhanced stroke rehabilitation service with improved staffing.
- Dedicated stroke inpatient beds supported by specialist staff at FDRI.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Centralise the in-patient service for Women and Children at SRI.
- Provide health checks for every child in care.
- Invest in improved specialist paediatric services at Yorkhill including the provision of additional intensive care beds.
- Improve oral health by increased dental health promotion, increased availability of drinking water in schools across Forth Valley, develop community and specialist dental services and reduce waiting times for treatment.
- Launch of an interactive health website for children.
- Provide drop-in sexual health advice service for young people.

OLDER PEOPLE

- Involve patients and carers in the planning of services for older people.
- Work with local authorities by sharing assessment information between agencies to avoid duplication.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Invest a further £90,000 to improve user and carer involvement in the design and delivery of adult mental health services.

LEARNING DISABILITY

- Invest £1 million in the new purpose built NHS 26-bedded in-patient unit at Larbert and in community learning disability services.

SUBSTANCE USE

- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol abuse and target education in schools by working with other agencies.
- Following the successful pilot, continue the out-of-hours drop in smoking cessation clinics.

EXERCISE

- Continue community-walking groups.
- Work with the Councils in the development of Active Primary Schools.
- Provide supervised walking programmes in Stirling for cardiac patients.

DIET

Extend the work with the community to include extending the 'Forth Valley Food Links' scheme and continuing the 'Food Dudes' scheme.

WAITING TIME AND ACCESS

- Achieve a 26 week maximum wait for out-patients for all medical specialities
- Achieve a six-month target wait for in-patient and day case ENT, ophthalmology, gynaecology and Urology.
- Achieve an eight-month target wait for in-patient and day case general surgery.
- Achieve a nine-month guaranteed wait for in-patient and day case orthopaedics and oral surgery.
- Reduce waiting times for cardiology procedures.
- Provide access within 48 hours to appropriate member of Primary Care Team.
- Extend facilities for electronic referral and booking, electronic discharge and clinical email to all practices.
- Further reduce the number of delayed discharges.

WHITE PAPER

Begin the implementations of the White Paper - 'Partnership for Care'

- Form one NHS organisation for Forth Valley as soon as practical.
- Develop robust Community Health Partnerships with local authority partners.
- Continue to actively involve patients and the public in the planning of our services.

HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTION

- Reduce the risk of acquiring an infection while a patient in hospital.