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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>7 December 2023</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital &amp; Customer Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LS/161/23</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Diane Sweeney</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712147</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Response to Consultation on GP Out of Hours Provision in Inverclyde – Notice of Motion by Councillor Clocherty</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND CONSIDERATIONS

- 1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor Clocherty, countersigned by Councillor McVey, relative to a response to the consultation on out of hours GP provision in Inverclyde.
- 1.3 The terms of the Notice of Motion are set out in appendix 1 to the report.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion by Councillor Clocherty.

**Iain Strachan**  
**Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services**

## Appendix 1

### Council notes:

1. That on 16<sup>th</sup> February, council adopted a motion expressing its opposition to Health Board plans not to return a full GP Out of Hours service to Inverclyde.
2. That the motion called on a full consultation to be conducted on any future plans on the GP out of hours service.
3. That following guidance from Health Improvement Scotland, Greater Glasgow and Clyde launched a public consultation in October on changes to GP Out of Hours.
4. The Health Board's plans would centralise out of hours centres at RAH in Paisley and Stobhill and the New Victoria in Glasgow. Face to face appointments would only be available in Inverclyde on Saturdays from 10-1 and public holidays, meaning that at all other times there would be no dedicated out of hours centre in Inverclyde.
5. 6000 people have signed a petition opposing these changes.

### Council believes:

1. The consultation is a welcome opportunity for people across Inverclyde to express their views on this issue.
2. It is unacceptable that services should be consolidated away from Inverclyde and that our area will be left without an out of hours centre for most of each week.

### Council resolves:

1. To submit the following response to the public consultation on behalf of Inverclyde Council before the end of the consultation period on 11<sup>th</sup> December:

"We welcome the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the future of GP out of hours services in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board areas.

At meetings of the council on 16<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> December, the council expressed its opposition to health board plans to permanently reduce the GP out of hours provision in Inverclyde.

We do not believe that NHSGGC's proposal to make the current arrangement permanent meets the needs of patients in Inverclyde. It is unacceptable that services are to be consolidated on three sites that are very close to each other, while patients in Inverclyde face round trips of up to fifty miles in order to access out of hours treatment.

In proposing this new arrangement, we do not believe that Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board have adequately addressed the inequalities of access. Permanently reducing the GP out of hours centre in Inverclyde – one of the most deprived areas in the Health Board region – is not in line with the Health Board's aim of reducing health inequalities.

Opposition to the Board's proposals are widespread in the community with over 6,000 people signing a petition opposing them.

We ask that the Board reinstates a GP out of hours centre seven days a week in Inverclyde to ensure equality of access across the Board area."

Proposed: Councillor Jim Clocherty  
Seconded: Councillor Tommy McVey