

TO Hospital Advisory Committee
FROM Lareen Cooper
General Manager
MidCentral Health



DATE 28 January 2008

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT Conceptual Service Plan – Women’s & Child Health, MidCentral & Whanganui DHB’s

Please find attached the Conceptual Service Plan that is the outcome of the work of the Whanganui & MidCentral Regional Taskforce. Also included is the Supplementary Information that was requested following the joint Boards workshop held 20 November 2007. The Conceptual Service Plan is presented for endorsement to move to the next stage of consultation and implementation planning.

The events of 2006/07 effecting the clinical viability and sustainability of Whanganui DHB’s Child & Women’s Health Service brought into sharp focus the reality of sustaining and developing these specialties in provincial DHBs. The support and encouragement from the Ministry of Health to MidCentral and Whanganui DHBs to explore opportunities for collaboration underline the role of MidCentral DHB to support its neighbour. As is discussed in the accompanying documents the “status quo” is untenable – MidCentral DHB does not have the capacity to manage unplanned or unexpected external clinical demands in Child & Women’s Health. The impact of the unexpected service demands from Whanganui in late 2006, early 2007 had an impact on the ability of MidCentral DHB to meet the needs of its own population during this time. The proposed models look to having greater collaboration, organisation and over time certainty for the services in both DHBs.

It is important to note that while MidCentral DHB has not had workforce issues and service disruption to the same degree as Whanganui DHB, it remains susceptible to this within the current national and international workforce challenges. The benefits to Whanganui DHB from the proposed arrangements will also accrue to MidCentral DHB giving greater certainty and sustainability over time.

For both DHBs the starting point has been a strong desire to sustain and build on existing levels of service delivery. This is an important key objective of the service models – it will be crucial to ensure that existing levels of service delivery to MidCentral DHBs population are maintained and over time enhanced by implementation of this model of service delivery. This will also

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be an important consideration for Whanganui DHB and as a result help secure an approach that looks to carefully advance the combined interests of both DHB's without creating a disadvantage to either. There is evidence that this is achievable through the commitment of the taskforce participants to the conceptual service plan and its objectives.

Endorsement of the service plan for the purpose of consultation is the first step in the decision making process to bring together the regional service model. If the Hospital Advisory Committee or Board of either DHB does not endorse the service plan then the next steps will be delayed until further information and/or clarification is provided. It would then be resubmitted to the Committee and Board of both DHB's.

Following endorsement by the Boards a Consultation Plan, including a discussion document and feedback form will be developed. This will be presented to the March HAC and Board meetings for Whanganui DHB and the April HAC and Board meeting for MidCentral DHB. This approach is required as there is insufficient time between the February Whanganui DHB Board meeting and the March MidCentral DHB HAC meeting to develop the consultation plan.

Consultation will be conducted jointly by both DHBs over a six week period in May/June 2008 in time to come back to the July HAC and Board meetings for both Whanganui DHB and MidCentral DHB.

Timeline

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| 5 February | Service Plan to MidCentral HAC for endorsement for the purpose of consultation |
| 15 February | Service Plan to Whanganui HAC for endorsement for the purpose of consultation |
| 19 February | Service Plan to MidCentral Board for endorsement for the purpose of consultation |
| 29 February | Service Plan to Whanganui Board for endorsement for the purpose of consultation |
| March | Consultation Plan to Whanganui HAC/Board for approval |
| April | Consultation Plan to MidCentral HAC/Board for approval |
| April/May | Six week Consultation period |
| July | Final Decision to MidCentral HAC/Board for approval |
| July | Final Decision to Whanganui HAC/Board for approval |

The presentation of this plan for the Committee's endorsement represents a significant milestone for both Whanganui & MidCentral DHBs. It will provide a further platform for collaboration and service development in the interests of the population of the region.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that

the proposed conceptual service plan dated November 2007 (revised January 2008) for Women's and Children's Health Services in the Whanganui and MidCentral Region is endorsed for the purpose of consultation

Lareen Cooper
General Manager
MidCentral Health