

RHU & SHANDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

By email to

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Vale of Leven Hospital Cuts

It is with some concern that we are advised that the CMU Unit at the Vale of Leven Hospital is being considered for closure. We believe this action would be detrimental to the ongoing service level provided to expectant mothers in the Lomond area. This is particularly so given recent problems at the Queen Elizabeth maternity unit.

Were this an isolated service reduction it would be worrying, however this is but the latest departmental closure in a long list going back over ten years. The “domino effect” of these closures for example in Gynaecology, Anaesthetics, Mental Health in-house care and A and E must put the future of the Vale in jeopardy. This would be a major issue for all in the district given the lack of accessible services north of the river Clyde. Further concern relates to the absence of a coherent plan indicating the settled future role of the Vale of Leven Hospital in servicing the health needs of the Lomond area.

You should be aware that transport availability to hospitals south of the river from the Lomond area is limited, time consuming and costly and that the area covered by the Vale contains areas of high deprivation with some of the lowest car per household ratios in Scotland. Given these factors we consider that any further reduction in locally available services would be potentially disastrous for the communities we represent.

One further element increasing the future demand for the CMU is the planned arrival of families of child bearing age from the Royal Navy consolidation of submarine activities at the Faslane base in the next few years.

We would therefore request that no further consideration be given to the CMU closure and, indeed, to any future service reductions or transfers out of the Vale. The extension of diagnostic facilities, Day Surgery and other Outpatient services as promised in the previous Vision for the Vale and iterated since, should be implemented.

Copied by email to
Members of the Rhu & Shandon Community Council
Councillor George Freeman
Councillor Robert Macintyre
Councillor Maurice Corry