

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Registry's purpose, even its existence, is comparatively little-known, compared to other information elements and more conspicuous parts of NHS Scotland. Nevertheless, it is a vital component that helps ensure the smooth operation of the NHS. The main recommendations were as follows:

1. the Registry should establish, maintain and project, a clear purpose, role and function with respect to key service users, and governance of its operations;

COMMENT: *We need a meeting to decide who should take part and a definition of responsibilities. Suggested membership for the initial meeting - RG, Dr Rod Muir, Martin Tyson(DRO), Charlie Knox? (or could be sent a copy of decisions for comment) and Muriel Douglas.*

2. the Registry should maintain robust internal quality assurance procedures consistent with the law and best practice, and develop a strategy for external quality assurance;

COMMENT: *At present we are undertaking significant work for Glasgow and Edinburgh Practitioner Services Divisions and an all Scotland check is also being carried out for patients whose medical records are about to be destroyed because they have not presented for GP services for a period of more than three years. A strategy for quality assurance will be developed as part of the forthcoming meetings to set up a Citizen's Account.*

3. the Registry, with its host organisation, should establish governance arrangements that will include representation from key service users and offer strategic advice on its external relations, governance and effective policy developments;

COMMENT: *Please see comments at 1*

4. the Registry should continue to explore opportunities with its key service users to maximise its use for health, population and research purposes, while upholding its reputation and avoiding any diversion from its prime purpose;

COMMENT: *Ongoing*

5. the Registry, with the GROS, should track closely the proposals for changes in residency and population registration, and plan to enhance the Registry's ability to support population remuneration and NHS entitlement for those residents in Scotland who were not born in the UK;

COMMENT: *I have highlighted to the Contract Management Team for NHSCR's IT Services the possibility of a requirement for some development work. This was part of a questionnaire which was looking for an extension to the service contract for a further two years (2007)*

6. the Registry should examine the cost-effectiveness of creating a backup to its paper resources, proportionate to the risk of destruction of vital archive material and irreplaceable information;

COMMENT: *I have e-mailed Ron Bell today asking him for a formal estimate of costs for this work. This will allow us a basis for deciding whether this work should be progressed now or at some future date if cost savings were significant. A decision on the appropriate funding stream would also be required*

7. the Registry should remain part of GROS and a decision on its future location should be deferred until there is a clear view on the impact that the population register proposals would have on the future work of the Registry. The GROS would therefore ensure the stewardship of the Registry and the implications of the recommendations of this report.

COMMENT: *RG hopes to have the Relocation Review Report finalised by the end of the month. He will pass to Ministers when he feels it is appropriate to do so. There is a strong recommendation that NHSCR should remain in their present location.*