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Argyll & Clyde

Health Board

ND CLYDE HEALTH BOARD

PALLIATIVE CARE STRATEGY

1 INTRODUCTION

Cancer is one of the national priorities. Over the last three years Argyll and Clyde Health Board's Cancer Steering Group has identified, and prioritised, the needs of cancer patients. The group has increasingly taken a population view to co-ordinate, plan and monitor cancer prevention and care for the residents of Argyll and Clyde, taking into consideration the social and geographical inequalities which exist. The needs cover the full range from prevention, diagnosis, and treatment to palliative care.

The recent Trust reconfiguration and continuing development of Local Health Care Co-operatives has further stimulated the consideration of cancer services, particularly in respect of palliative care, building on the work undertaken previously by the Task Force on Care of the Dying and Bereaved.

The development of a strategy for palliative care is the result of multidisciplinary discussion involving relevant professionals, consideration of the ongoing and future needs of the service in the context of Argyll and Clyde Health Board, and identification of the priorities of a well designed, comprehensive palliative care service.

The strategy was drawn up by the members of the Palliative Care Steering Group, based on the outcome of discussions which involved wider representation.

This document defines the strategic framework against which palliative care services for those living in Argyll and Clyde will be developed. Once agreed, the strategy will inform the development of the Board's Health Improvement Programme 2000/01 – 2004/05 and bids for the 'New Opportunities Fund'. Short, medium and long term plans for implementing the Strategy will be developed, however, those items requiring new investment from within the Board's recurring funding will be dealt with in the same way as other competing bids for limited amounts of development funding in the later years of the Programme.

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