Ms Christina McKelvie  
Convener  
Equalities and Human Rights Committee  
T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP  

Date  
21 March 2017  

Your Ref  
MED/sc/emd/2103 C McKelvie  

Our Ref  

Enquiries to  
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Dear Ms McKelvie

CALL FOR VIEWS ON DESTITUTION AND ASYLUM IN SCOTLAND

In response to your letter dated 31 January 2017 I can confirm that NHS Tayside works closely with the Local Authority and Health and Social Care Partnerships (Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross) across Tayside.

Refugees and asylum seekers, who may be resident permanently or temporarily within Tayside, would be managed through the Health and Social Care Partnership and Local Authority across the three localities. NHS Tayside would have limited interaction or management of asylum seekers and/or refugees. If a patient who was an asylum seeker or refugee did come in and use NHS Tayside hospital services then we would liaise and communicate with Health and Social Care Partnership/Local Authority leads who have a responsibility for this client group and we would seek advice and support if required to deliver and manage care for these patients.

NHS Tayside does have an identified Board lead for the Syrian Vulnerable Person’s Resettlement Scheme. This individual is kept informed and updated on progress with the Syrian Vulnerable Person’s Resettlement Scheme through the three identified Health and Social Care Partnership leads/managers in Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross.

I have attached a Tayside-wide response we did recently for NHS Health Scotland on the Syrian Vulnerable Person’s Resettlement Scheme, which may be helpful. NHS Health Scotland wanted to understand how the scheme was working locally for health services to identify if there are any aspects of this area of work that could benefit from being taken forward at a national level (Appendix 1).

Cont/...
I have also attached (Appendix 2) a response on Destitution and Asylum Inquiry from Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership for your information.

We have also sought advice from NHS Tayside Welfare through the Senior Health Promotion/Improvement Specialist who has shared the following information:

Information and advice regarding welfare rights and housing, food and fuel issues for migrants is available from a multi-agency Advice Centre at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee and from welfare advice workers located in GP surgeries in Dundee and Angus. (Service currently provided in five practices in Dundee and two in Angus).

There are no specific policies in NHS Tayside relating to refugees and/or asylum seekers. All NHS Tayside Clinical Policies apply equally and fairly to all service users. When care is provided we ensure it is person-centred and meets the needs of the individual patient.

Individual assessments are carried out for all patients and care is planned according to their needs. Equality and diversity is integral when this needs assessment is carried out and patients protected characteristics and equality needs are assessed at the start.

Yours sincerely

Margaret E Dunning
Board Secretary

Encs

Copy to:
Ms L McLay, Chief Executive, NHS Tayside, Level 10, Ninewells Hospital & Medical School
(by email: lmclay@nhs.net)