



General Register Office for Scotland
information about Scotland's people

Paper NHSCR GB 4/07
Service contract between SEHD and GROS

May 2007

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2006/07 service contract

1. At the meeting of the Governance Board in October 2006, a draft of the 2006/07 service contract between GROS and the HD was circulated (Paper NHSCR GB 9/06). The sum of £950,000 was agreed as an appropriate sum for payment by the HD. The intention was to draw up a similar agreement with the Improvement Service for the NHSCR's work on the Citizen's Account.

2. The cost of NHSCR's work on the Citizen's Account during 2006/07 is estimated at £60K. This has effectively been paid for by the Health Department. Rather than arranging for a transfer of funds from the Improvement Service to the Health Department at this stage, it was agreed that the benefits to the NHS of this work could justify the Health Department absorbing the cost for 2006/07. Examples of such benefits include:-

- The improved quality and completeness of the NHSCR system, enabling tracing of patient records to be done more efficiently and effectively. This was achieved through partnership working between Health and the Improvement Service in relation to the taking on of extra CHI records and pre-'93 deaths.
- Data cleansing on CHI as a spin-off of the increased number of manual searches carried out by NHSCR for the Improvement Service.
- NHSCR being able to pass active CHI numbers to local government. The CMO and Ministers wanted the CHI numbers to be widely known and used for the provision of appropriate health care.
- The identification, through entitlement cards, of more vulnerable groups e.g. the elderly, disabled and their carers.

2007/08 service contract

3. Past SLAs have been based on a historical method of GROS costs being apportioned to NHSCR on the basis of staff numbers. The opportunity has been taken to investigate the possibility of apportioning costs in a more direct way. This has not been as straightforward as first envisaged and rather than changing the accounting method this year, just before the spending review when there may well be several major changes in the way accounting is done, it is proposed to continue with the current method of apportioning costs to NHSCR for 2007/08 and further split those costs between the HD and IS according to staff numbers. The resulting costs for 2007/08 are likely to be of the order of £850 to the Health Department and £100K to the Improvement Service.

Future service contracts

4. Pilots with 9 local authorities are taking place this financial year, with a view to expansion to other local authorities next financial year. Extra staff are being recruited specifically to support the project. The costs to NHSCR of the Citizen's Account project are anticipated to increase as more local authorities come on board.

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5. Exploration of allocating costs based on direct costs will be investigated as part of the spending review exercise for 2007-2010.