



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Professor Jann Gardner
Chief Executive
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Date: 18 March 2025

My ref: BD19394/GB



Dear Jann,

URGENT

**Imminent Closure of The Notre Dame Centre
(Kelvin House, 419 Balmore Road, G22 6NT)**

I write on a hugely urgent and time sensitive matter. Given this, whilst appreciating the pressures on your time, I would welcome a substantive response as soon as possible.

The Notre Dame Centre, based within my constituency, is currently supporting around 100 children and their families with a range of complex needs as a result of childhood trauma. They were commissioned to do so following a tendering process and have an impressive track record and demonstrable positive outcomes over many years. The current contractual arrangements are a 2 plus 2 contract. That is two years to provide the current service with referral pathways from Education Services, Glasgow HSCP and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde for two years and a 'plus two' roll over of the contract provisions if no alternative tender arrangements are made.

However, at a meeting last week with an NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde representative, as part of a regular pattern of update meetings, The Notre Dame Centre were told that the contract would end on the 31st of March 2025 and that the NHS and partners would now provide an alternative service in house using existing services such as CAMHS. This news came completely out the blue and is just 19 days' notice, although I do note a 3 month extension has been granted in order to transition the service.

For my part, I cannot comprehend that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and their partners would terminate the £500,000 contract with The Notre Dame Centre at such short notice, with no previous discussions that this was being considered. Nor indeed any discussions about what this would mean for the 100 vulnerable young people and their families with complex needs currently receiving support. I would believe that even a three month extension would make it extremely challenging to move young people from the service.

Bob Doris MSP

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Indeed, I also understand that there are several families also awaiting a placement with The Notre Dame Centre who will have their hopes of receiving the appropriate support dashed. I am told that following the notification last week that staff in partner agencies remain unaware; for instance, social workers or head teachers, as referrals have continued to be approved by JST groups and forwarded on to The Notre Dame Centre as normal to be added to the waiting list. In fact The Notre Dame Centre received several referrals last week. This suggests that there has been little or no consultation with key staff or groups, that there is no strategic service redesign and that the 100 children and families - and all those referred and waiting- will need to be supported by existing NHS, HSCP or Education Services.

This appears to simply be cutting a high quality service that benefits some of the most vulnerable families in Glasgow. Those families also appear to be an afterthought. There is no plan for a transition into alternative services. Relationships painstakingly developed with families by The Notre Dame Centre will be summarily terminated due to the decision of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

I urge NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and its partners to immediately review this decision. In doing so I request that the 'plus two' years provision within the original tender is triggered and that The Notre Dame Centre can continue to offer the high quality support over the next two years. I accept that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and partners may wish to consider service redesign and, whilst I will always advocate for The Notre Dame Centre ; that is a legitimate consideration. However, the current actions are no way to conduct any service redesign.

As things stand, The Notre Dame Centre have had to put staff on 90 day notices. Expert and experienced staff who work with families will be made redundant and their skills lost to the sector. Most importantly, vulnerable families will suffer. There remains no information, let alone clarity as to what will happen to families currently being supported. Do they move to the back of a CAMHS waiting list? Even if they were fast-tracked into CAMHS for support I would note the service and joint therapeutic support offered by The Notre Dame Centre is not a CAMHS service. This would not be a like for like replacement of service and vital relationships will be destroyed.

I would also note that The Notre Dame Centre is also the Scotland wide accredited Seasons for Growth trainer. Seasons for Growth provides training and resources to schools across Scotland to support children and families experiencing loss and bereavement. This would also be lost.

I would note this is not the first time I have made representations to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde regarding The Notre Dame Centre. In 2022 NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde decided to tender out what was previously a service level agreement with The Notre Dame Centre. Whilst the Centre were prepared for such a process, they were not prepared to see the service tendered out with a 45% cut to the tender for a 'like for like' service. Thankfully NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde reconsidered and tendered the contract at full value. The Notre Dame Centre won that contract under a competitive tender.

I very much hope NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde will once again reconsider. Bringing services offered by The Notre Dame Centre 'in house' will impact vulnerable families who currently receive an appropriate and high quality service from the Centre. It is also likely to add to waiting time pressures on alternative services.

Given the level of my concern, I am also writing in a similar fashion to Glasgow HSCP, Glasgow Education Services and to the Cabinet Secretary for Health within the Scottish Government. I also intend seeking to raise directly with the First Minister at Thursday's First Minister's Questions.

My thanks for your consideration of the various matters within this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Doris". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Doris MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn constituency (SNP)