

Monday, January 11, 2010

C diff Inquiry Chairman visits Vale of Leven Hospital

Lord MacLean, the Chairman of the public Inquiry into the occurrence of Clostridium difficile (C diff) infection at the Vale of Leven Hospital in Dumbarton, today (Monday, January 11) visited the site.

Alongside other members of the Inquiry team, Lord MacLean met with hospital staff and undertook a tour of the building to experience its day-to-day working environment.

During the period between December 1, 2007 and June 1, 2008, 55 patients at the Vale of Leven Hospital contracted C diff and 18 people died.

In April this year, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon, announced that a public Inquiry would be held to examine the cause of the outbreak and the Inquiry officially began its work on October 1, 2009.

While focusing on the Vale of Leven Hospital, Lord MacLean will be able to refer to other experience of C diff infection within and beyond Scotland to help inform recommendations in light of the lessons identified from the circumstances surrounding the outbreak.

A preliminary hearing, chaired by Lord MacLean, will be held at Dumbarton Sheriff Court on Monday, February 1, when he will outline the anticipated timescale and structure for proceedings.

This will be open to all core participants and their legal representatives as well as any person wishing to be designated as a core participant, patients, their families and members of the public.

A spokesperson for the Inquiry, said: "Today's visit to the Vale of Leven Hospital was very useful as it provided Lord MacLean and other members of the Inquiry team with an opportunity to meet some of the staff, ask questions and generally get a feel for the hospital whilst seeing what changes have taken place since the outbreak."

Information regarding the procedures for the Inquiry is available on the Inquiry website at www.valeoflevenhospitalinquiry.org and details on the venue for the Inquiry will be made available shortly.

Issued on behalf of the Vale of Leven Hospital Inquiry by The BIG Partnership. For more information contact:

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