



ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

Vale of Leven report

November 2014

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow welcomes this long awaited report on the outbreak of Clostridium Difficile at the Vale of Leven Hospital between December 2007 and June 2008. We offer our deepest sympathies to all the families of those who died as a result of the outbreak.

Since then major changes have taken place in the way infections are treatment and this together with responsible prescribing of antibiotics had led to a substantial fall in this and other hospital acquired infections. These improvements are to be welcomed.

Many hospitals throughout the country undergo changes to the way in which they operate and in the services they provide. The use of terms such as downgrading and specialist centres as centres of excellence can lead to loss of staff morale and at times reduced resources to those services where transferral is planned. This is arguably the most difficult challenge facing health boards and it is key that the hospital being redesigned must have all the requirements to maintain the best possible care during transition. Considerable planning is essential to support staff and especially patients and their families affected by such decisions.