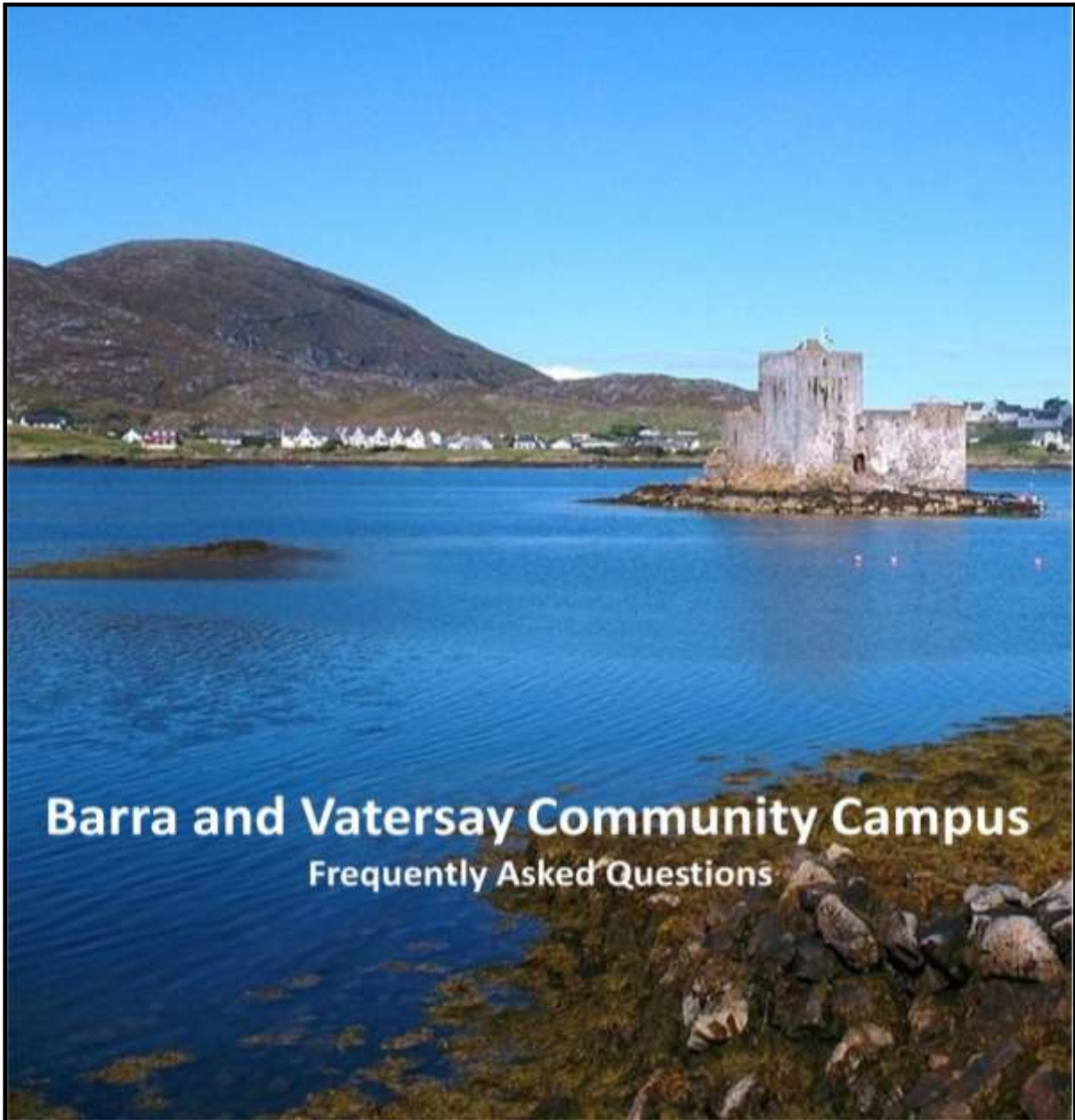




**NHS**  
Eileanan Siar  
Western Isles

**hub**  
North Scotland



# Barra and Vatersay Community Campus

## Frequently Asked Questions

Issue  
April 2021

## 1 GENERAL ISSUES

### 1.1 Why is it necessary to replace the St Brendan's Hospital and Care Home and the Castlebay Community School?

St Brendan's Hospital was built in the 1980s and can no longer fully support the development and delivery of clinical models that will care for the community in the future, is costly to run and maintain, and hinders rather than enables health and social care integration.

The Community School comprises several buildings built in the period from the early to late 20<sup>th</sup> century and were designed for an earlier approach to educational provision. The current school no longer reflects the needs of the community for the integration of education, skills and jobs that will support long-term island resilience.

### 1.2 Why has it been decided to bring health, social, education and community services for Barra and Vatersay into a single community campus in Castlebay?

The need to replace the St Brendan's Hospital and Care Home and the Castlebay Community School was recognised by NHS Western Isles and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and provided the impetus for the consideration of the development of a single campus project that integrates the wide range of public services on one location.

The outcomes of the [Barra and Vatersay Community Campus Feasibility Study](#), published in October 2019, supported the principle of an integrated community campus, and identified the development of the site of and adjacent to the existing Community School as the preferred option.

### 1.3 What facilities are going to be provided as part of the community campus?

In terms of health and social care, the Community Campus will be part of a wider redesigned patient and community-focused service that responds to population growth, demand increases, and cost pressures.

The feasibility and design work carried out so far shows that the health and social care elements of the Community Campus will include:

- Two resuscitation and retrieval bays for emergency care
- Three in-patient beds to enable stabilisation and observation
- Multi-purpose consulting rooms
- General practice facilities
- Dental suite
- Scottish Ambulance Service base

GP, hospital, social care, dental and ambulance services would, therefore, all be located together on the Community Campus. In addition, there would be social care housing comprising eight fixed tenanted units, and two living units for flexible use. Also included would be mortuary facilities.

Educational provision on Barra and Vatersay is also changing to reflect the different needs of how pupils learn, what is expected by employers, and what would be beneficial to build a vibrant, resilient economy on Barra and Vatersay. The traditional, centralised classroom style of teaching that was experienced by many is now being challenged by the expectations of learners, availability of technology, innovation from teachers, and needs of future employers.

The Community Campus offers an opportunity to design an approach to integrated education that goes from early years to life-long learning, from early learners to adult returners.

Included within the Community Campus will, therefore, be nursery and preschool children's education and development, primary and secondary education, college courses, and life-long learning opportunities for adults.

The project will also include the provision of a new games hall, swimming pool, fitness suite and external playing areas including a full-size football pitch and multi-use games area (MUGA).

**1.4 What will be the longer-term job benefits for the residents of Barra, beyond the period of construction? How will this affect the employment prospects of women, in the type and number of jobs?**

A project Social Value and Community Benefit working group has been established with the purpose of linking lasting benefits to the Barra & Vatersay Social and Economic Regeneration Plan, the overarching vision of which includes the delivery of high-quality jobs in the community.

Work is underway to match benefits to community requirements and aspirations beyond the construction period. The aim is to provide a wide range of benefits, including inclusive employment opportunities across diverse groups, as a legacy of the project.

**1.5 What can be done to ensure robustness of the lifts and minimal maintenance required? Is the responsible authority prepared to budget for the maintenance and servicing costs? Can the stairs and lift to the lower ground floor be replaced with a 'Z' shaped slope instead?**

The sloping nature of the site has been used to create two ground floor entrances for the health and education areas. An internal lift and stairs will also provide access to the upper level of the school and from the GP practice to the hospital. Providing a ramp would mean losing a substantial part of the dining area.

Although the detail is to be finalised, it is feasible that the lift can be regularly maintained by an existing maintenance contractor who undertakes a similar service for lifts on South Uist, Benbecula and Lewis. Remote technology will also identify any preventative measures required. Site staff and local fire service personnel will also be trained as lift release wardens.

**1.6 Concerns about massing of the building. Preferable to be more spread out and less 'imposing'.**

Great care is being taken in the design of the building to mitigate scale. By using a maximum of two storeys in height and breaking down the form into a series of connected parts arranged around courtyards to the main road, we believe that the new campus will sit successfully within the context of Castlebay and the wider setting.

**1.7 Little provision for storage is shown on the plans. Will it be sufficient for the needs of each department?**

Storage is being provided in accordance with the space brief agreed with CnES, with increased provision for dining storage and increased performance storage for the main hall. Additional external storage could be provided by the repurposing of modular decant units when the main campus is completed.

**1.8 There should be more engagement on the design process and more frequent information about the progress should be presented to the community.**

Community engagement has been ongoing since summer 2020 and will continue with further public consultation prior to formally submitting a planning application. Once lodged, the proposals will be available for comment by the public.

**1.9 Has it been considered extending the site footprint to resolve site issues? If so, have any formal approaches been made to the landowner and/or crofting tenants?**

The need for temporary access to or the outright acquisition of land adjacent to the proposed development is being assessed. Discussions are ongoing with the owner and occupiers of the relevant areas.

As previously indicated, options for the project's decant arrangements are currently being developed. Final details will be published at the appropriate time within the delivery process.

**1.10 Is there another site that allows for the continued use of existing facilities without the need for decanting and risk of crossing the busy A888 road?**

We have been unable to identify another site within the Castlebay area which would be capable of accommodating all the areas of the campus. We have tested areas of land to the west for capacity as part of this process.

**1.11 Will the main road be closed off for the duration of demolition and construction?**

There are no plans to close the main road off, however there would be single traffic in operation controlled by traffic lights system for certain works. The footpath on the school side of the road will be closed temporarily for safety reasons when construction works are undertaken.

**1.12 Concerns about crossing the main A888 road. Can a risk assessment be carried out? What is the estimated cost of moving the road to the north of the planned development? Are there any elements of the project that are not required to allow for rerouting of the road?**

The estimated cost for diverting the road to the north of the planned development site is £7.5m (excluding VAT). An initial road traffic assessment is currently being carried out to inform the full risk assessment process. There is no element of the project not required that would allow re-routing of the road and meet the required project scope.

**1.13 Overall provision of parking spaces seems insufficient.**

The parking provision, to be agreed with the Comhairle as part of the statutory planning process, will match the expected scale and timing of demand and be proportionate to the needs of the development.

**1.14 What is the strategy for the replacement of the removed trees and shrubs?**

The landscape design will include tree and shrub planting to enhance the scheme and replace parts of that lost with the development. Working with an ecologist we will propose species mix that is suitable for the local environment and enhance the biodiversity of the area.

**1.15 Suggestion for a provision of a garden area that is available for use out of hours, all year round.**

There is opportunities within the streetscape to create garden spaces that would be accessible for the community. Garden spaces will also be integrated to the landscape for use by the school, children's centre, and care facility. These could potentially have community access out of hours subject to the operator's agreement.

**1.16 Where will the Changing Place Facility be located? As this project is serving the whole of the island (visitors included) it is imperative that the CPF is accessible 24/7 and not just during the working hours of the main building. Is this going to be provided?**

The Changing Place Facility will be located close to the main entrance reception area. A key part of the intent for the new campus is that it can be managed locally to maximise the availability of use for the community.

**1.17 Centrality of the police accommodation is inappropriate and of concern due to privacy issues.**

Options associated with the scale and location of the Police accommodation is still under discussion with the Police Scotland Estates Team.

**1.18 What is the intended use for the police facility?**

It will offer routine public and police services along with a separate short-term custody area.

**1.19 I am concerned about the sound insulation and privacy of the central atrium.**

An acoustician has been appointed as part of the design team to ensure the performance of the campus. The use of appropriate finishes and acoustic panelling will give high levels of acoustic comfort and privacy.

**1.20 Is there a direct access from the school to the sports facilities?**

Access to the sports facilities will be across the A888. However, the area between the buildings will be redesigned to slow traffic and enhance pedestrian safety. The Comhairle has recently agreed to the implementation of an experimental traffic order for a 20mph speed limit on the A888 through the village; this will complement the proposed traffic calming measures to be incorporated in the project.

**1.21 Will there be a space for spectators next to the grass pitch?**

A dedicated area for spectator seating is not currently provided, but scope to provide areas for viewing will be subject to final site layout.

**1.22 Why are the sports facilities not alongside the community café?**

The community café facilitates part of pupil dining provision, and benefits from links with the library/LRC areas and staff work areas, which is why it is located out with the sports building.

**1.23 Concerns about community events and performance happening in the sports hall and the lack of supporting facilities for these functions other than changing rooms and showers. How has it been ensured that the sports hall can serve these additional functions?**

The sports hall will have additional storage to accommodate performance equipment. Retractable bleacher seating is also being provided along with audio visual equipment to allow the hall to function for performance use. A space is also being provided to allow a temporary refreshment area during performances.

**1.24 Will the events space be provided with access to a kitchen to allow catering of weddings and other events to happen?**

A space is being provided in the sports building to allow a temporary refreshment area during performances, although this will not have fixed kitchen facilities

**1.25 How long will the community be without sports facilities?**

There are challenges associated with the provision of temporary sports facilities during the construction period. Part of the rationale for locating the new sports centre on the south side of the A888 is to minimise the period the school and the community would be without the full scope of these facilities.

The demolition of the community school is currently scheduled to start in April 2022 with the new facilities available in June 2024 a total period of some 26 months. However, the new sports facilities are scheduled to be available in July 2023, meaning the temporary sports amenities will be provided for 16-months.

## **2 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

### **2.1 Why is Stornoway getting a new care home while ours is being removed?**

The provision of a new care home would not adequately meet the needs of the community due to the variety of care needs within its small population. The housing with extra care model allows support to be provided for a range of different care needs, tailored to the individual, providing a level of flexibility and individual choice that would not be possible in a care home setting.

The decision to build extra care housing was based on the need to provide a more person-centred service for the population of Barra. The care housing will be able to support individuals requiring 24/7 care with more personalised space and opportunities to choose how their care is delivered. The development in Stornoway reduced the care homes beds being replaced through the provision of extra care housing.

### **2.2 How will people with long term illnesses that require more than the four points of care, e.g., advanced dementia, be cared for on the island? Are we to expect that these people will be sent away from their home and families up to the new Stornoway Care home?**

The care model is for 24/7 care on site. It will not be staffed through a visiting care at home service. A more personalised environment helps support people with dementia and other residents to have their care environment suited to their needs. The services available on island will be able to care for individuals as they currently do, with off-island treatment for specialist interventions, as is currently the arrangement.

### **2.3 How would this affect the health and quality of life of these individuals? Given that people with dementia are already losing their memories would it not be right and proper to keep them situated on their home island surrounded by loved ones to help preserve what is left of who they are?**

Housing with Extra Care allows for people to remain on island providing whatever extra care is needed based on an individual's needs in what is their home, rather than the more institutionalised setting of a care home, in close proximity to their loved ones and their community.



**2.4 What would be the emotional impact on family members if they must travel to Stornoway?**

As with residents in care homes in Lewis, Harris, Uist or anywhere else a minority may require to be accommodated in specialist units. As is currently the case residents would only be accommodated off island if there is a clinical need for very specialised care; working with families to sustain people living within their own home is a priority across all communities.

**2.5 What would be the economic impact to both the island and individuals if forced to travel to visit loved ones? The cost of the travel and time needed to take of work would have a negative impact on people's income and the general economy.**

As stated previously, residents would only be accommodated off island if there is a clinical need for specialised care elsewhere.

**2.6 If families are put in a position to either send their loved ones away or care for them at home people may feel forced to choose the latter. This in turn would force them to give up work and rely on state benefits (Carers Allowance) again this would have a negative impact on the economy of the island as it is removing people from our working population. It was promised when looking at the St Brendan's plan no person would be sent away unless there was a medical reason and would be taken home, not to another island at end of hospital care (on discharge). Will this not lead to more bed blocking, which is already an issue?**

As stated above, working with families to sustain people living within their own home is a priority across all communities. The Barra and Vatersay Hub model also wishes to enhance the integrated working to support people to stay within their own home for as long as possible.

Should that not be possible, the extra care housing is the service to support those within their own communities. This approach also provides families with different opportunities to support their loved ones as it is a homely setting with private space compared to that of a care home.

**2.7 What measures are in place to keep people privacy protected? Given the huge increase in footfall that is to be expected in and around this building and the close-knit nature of our island this could lead to embarrassing situations and rumour about people's health?**

Final detailed design will be taking into consideration the important issues of privacy, dignity, and respect. Such matters will be addressed as far as the buildings/facilities are concerned. The proposal provides an enhanced environment for privacy with communal space for those that wish to use it, and a private flat for those that do not.

**2.8 There are dangers and unpredictable consequences posed by having people with mental health problems situated near children. What measures are going to be put in place to make sure this does not happen? Who will take responsibility if there is a serious incident given that this is a real and identifiable problem?**

Mental Health support, which is community based and has been enhanced, will continue. The campus will have a place of safety to care for those patients with acute mental health presentation that require transfer as happens at present. There is no in-patient mental health facility approved or included in the health facility. Health facilities will have controlled entry and exits. Operational protocols will be in place regarding patient management.

**2.9 If someone is not legally allowed within X distance of children how are they expected to access any of the services on the island if they are situated next to one another?**

An individual's access to services will be subject to a risk assessment and risk management plan. usually be on a planned basis and as agreed with all the relevant services. Emergency access would be in line with clearly set out service protocols.

**2.10 Given the current pandemic worldwide with COVID19 (in addition to other infectious diseases) and the rate at which it is spreading what measures are being put in place to protect the most vulnerable members of our community, mainly the very young and very old.**

We are continually learning about the Coronavirus and are optimistic about the effectiveness of the vaccines being used. The advent of Coronavirus will bring further review and enhanced measures in terms of the built environment and we welcome such measures. Single, and only single, rooms in the hospital will allow more effective control and prevention of infection. The extra care housing provides increased personalised space supported by infection control services to address the management of infectious diseases.

**2.11 Will there be a hospice?**

A "hospice" facility will not be provided as part of the Community Campus project.

Palliative and end of life care will be provided in the community, in the housing with extra care, and in the hospital environment, depending on the individual's circumstances and wishes. Assurance has been given that the hospital environment can be enhanced to create a more homely feel whilst respecting the clinical considerations of the care to be delivered and appropriate facilities and environment will be part of the detailed hospital design. We are grateful for the ongoing support and input from the local community.

**2.12 How are people employed by the NHS/CNES meant to raise concerns? I have met as many of them as I could privately and there are some serious concerns about the project but all fear speaking up.**

Staff have been involved since the outset. Staff in both organisations can raise any concerns through their respective organisational formal and informal channels at any time. In addition, staff are encouraged to continue to participate in the development of the proposal and have procedures available to escalate any matter within their organisation.

Consultation took place as part of the development of the original site development, leading to the approved Outline Business Case. Engagement will continue as design and build progresses. Concerns can be raised at these events. It is important to point out that the health and social care outline Business Case closed off the design discussions and therefore in particular hospital facility accommodation and design is not something that can be re-opened.

**2.13 What will happen to existing buildings owned by NHS/Social care? Could they be sold onto HHP for housing? How could they be reused in some way? What would the environmental impact of demolition be?**

The current building is jointly owned by NHSWI and the Comhairle. The organisations have not taken any decision yet regarding the future of the existing building.

**2.14 Is there a specific aim for the community benefit clause from the NHS side of things?**

There is always a community benefit clause in such health developments.

**2.15 What capacity will the new hospital have in terms of beds?**

Three inpatient beds, two resuscitation/retrieval spaces.

**2.16 Given how remote our island is, the lack of ferry coverage, air service dependent on the tides, would it not be prudent to have the services required (CPN/mental health care, elderly care, dentist etc) situated on the island? We are frequently cut from these services. The island still needs to function during these times of disruption which seem to be getting longer rather than shorter.**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a national move to undertake consultations and healthcare appointments virtually (i.e., via Near Me or telephone) where this is safe and effective. It is anticipated that this will continue. Therefore, many of the appointments attended by patients in Barra are likely to be held remotely in the future, where possible to do so. This will increase availability of appointments for Barra patients, who will be able to access an increasing range of services from their own homes.

In terms of services which require face to face contact the placement of all services/resources is driven by evidence of evolved need and levels of demand. All services, that following such an assessment, can be safely, effectively, and efficiently delivered from Barra will be.

Mental Health services have been enhanced and a Dental surgery is part of the facility.

**2.17 What laundry provisions are being made for the new hospital/home with infection control procedures especially if ferry goes 4-5 days without sailing? Will laundry services be retained in new build?**

There is no hospital scale laundry within the proposed investment case. Laundry will be provided by the Westerns Isles Hospital laundry in Stornoway.

**2.18 There has been a commitment from the council that when it comes to the education side of this project, jobs will not be lost and instead, it was promised that the CNES were committed to decentralisation and that jobs will be relocated from Stornoway and relocated here. Can NHSWI make a similar commitment? People from Barra and Vatersay are expected to travel off island for almost all medical treatment, would it not be fair for this burden to be spread throughout the islands.**

There are no such plans for NHSWI staff to relocate, however as stated above the opportunity to undertake consultations and healthcare appointments virtually, where this is safe and effective, will mean that Barra patients will in the future be able to access an increasing range of services from their own homes, so greatly reducing the need to travel off island.

NHSWI has no plan to reduce NHS posts in the new facility. NHS staff have pre-existing terms and conditions of employment. In the event of change emerging, NHSWI staff are subject to a no redundancy policy.

- 2.19 Right now, the people in the care home are catered for with fresh food cooked on the premises. With what we know so far it looks as though this is to change to the 4 points of care style where they will be given microwave meals? Would this not:**
- (a) Mean a lessening in the quality of food**
  - (b) The loss of a job?**

As stated earlier the model is not one of a visiting home care service. The extra care housing residents will have the opportunity to decide how their meals are arranged with the community campus offering the opportunity for a meals service on site. The original site plan was to have meals provided as described. The quality of the meals is assessed nutritionally from a dietetic/nutritional perspective and residents who require assistance with eating, as per their Care Plan, will receive such assistance.

- 2.20 Can the design brief given to the architects be supplied and made freely available? This is a project being funded by public money, to help the people of Barra and Vatersay so a more transparent approach might help gain some of the trust that has been eroded thus far. In addition to the brief, could the people of Barra and Vatersay also be supplied with the reasoning behind why certain decisions are being made and for these to be in detail?**

NHS Western Isles has a dedicated page to the Barra and Vatersay Community Hub at:

<https://www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/get-involved/current-consultation-engagement/barra-and-vatersay-community-hub/>

The original design brief for St Brendan's is being incorporated onto the new site. The accommodation schedule is agreed. The new site may offer different architectural design options.

Details of the community campus project can also be found on the CnES website at:

<https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/your-council/investment-delivery/major-projects/barra-and-vatersay-community-campus-feasibility-study/>

- 2.21 Are social areas still being kept as part of the home side of the hub given the limited space? Social interaction and being able to meet and have food in a communal area is important when encouraging people to eat especially those living with dementia.**

Communal space is included in the extra care housing to allow residents to enjoy social interaction when they wish.

- 2.22 Will social interaction and stimulation be a part of living in the home side of the hub if people are only getting 4 points of care or will care staff be on hand 24/7 as was originally stated with stimulation and activities being part of their remit. Again, the model is not as described.**

The hub proposal offers enhanced opportunities for the residents to access social space, throughout the day and into the evening.

**2.23 Will the home/hospital hub be on par with what was decided as being needed just 8 months ago before the hub was proposed?**

There is no reduction in specification.

**2.24 Will we have a full-time dentist?**

A new dental suite will be part of the facility. Dental staffing will match assessed population need.

**2.25 Are NHS WI/CNES aware that there are no private care homes on Barra. Have they assumed there is and is that the reason why ours is being removed?**

The care home is the only provider of 24/7 care on island and the proposal is to replace this care with the extra care housing.

**2.26 Will the proposed bed sits be big enough for an elderly couple or is it singles only?**

The extra care housing flats are intended for single occupancy. Experience to date is that single person occupancy is the rule, although it is possible that there could be requests for exemptions to the rule, and we may want to consider this in the future as policies evolve.

**2.27 If people are expected to travel to Lewis to see their loved ones will the CNES/NHS cover the cost of travel, accommodation, and lost wages?**

As stated previously residents would only be accommodated off island if there is a clinical need for specialised care, which is no different from the present. The Highlands and Islands Patient Travel Scheme will apply to any patients and their escorts travelling to and from off island treatment. It should be noted however that this scheme does not cover family members or others travelling to visit patients in off island hospital or care settings, which again is no change from the present arrangements.

**2.28 Will there be accommodation for visiting doctors/specialists?**

The new facility has consultation rooms and facilities for visiting services. Digital health services will also be available via the 'Near Me' remote consultation resource, using the 'Attend Anywhere' digital platform as a core part of the service.

**2.29 Will there be additional office space, with relevant equipment for specialist who are visiting? (x-ray etc)**

Yes; refer to above answer.

**2.30 Will there or is there a possibility of remote consultant (VC?)**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a national move to undertake consultations and healthcare appointments virtually (i.e., via Near Me or telephone) where this is safe and effective. It is anticipated that this will continue and develop further into the future. Therefore, many of the appointments attended by patients in Barra are likely to be held remotely in the future, where possible to do so. This will increase availability of appointments for Barra patients, who will be able to access an increasing range of services from their own homes.

**2.31 Have the necessary measures been provided to ensure infection control and allow for physical barriers to segregate groups of people?**

The campus project will go through the NHS Healthcare Associated Infection Systems for Controlling Risk in the Built Environment (HAI-SCRIBE) process to ensure appropriate levels of infection control are provided. The design of the campus also allows individual area to be closed off and accessed separately if needed, with distinct entrances for primary care, acute care, social care, education, and early years.

**2.32 Where will the ambulance station be located? Concerns about the location of the ambulance drop off area within the shared plaza area can cause risk on the school site.**

The ambulance drop off area is located at the eastern end of the site to maximise distance from the school areas.

**2.33 How does the layout of the GP practice and the hospital meet the needs for privacy, confidentiality, and infection control?**

The GP practice and hospital will all be accessed separately from the main campus, with their own entrances and waiting areas to respect confidentiality. The design will also ensure robust infection control measures are in place as part of the HAI-SCRIBE approvals process outlined previously.

**2.34 Are there enough parking spaces that are immediately adjacent to the GP surgeries for disabled visitors?**

The required number of accessible spaces will be provided in very close proximity to the main entrances of the school, hospital, GP area, Social Care housing and Sports facility. The remainder of the parking will be located further west to encourage active travel.

**2.35 How is the deceased going to leave the building?**

The deceased would be taken to a vehicle at the hospital drop off area via a discrete support corridor to ensure there is no contact with the public.

**2.36 How is privacy ensured to the visitors to the mental health care facilities, which is currently near the school?**

The GP practice and hospital can all be accessed separately from the main campus, with their own entrances and waiting areas to respect confidentiality. These are at the opposite end of the campus from the school area.

**2.37 Concerns about replacing the care home with an extra care housing and meeting the future increase in demand for such facilities. This can affect employment (in particular, female employment). Is there any provision of facilities for people that cannot live independently?**

NHS / CnES – The provision of extra care housing is based on the need to provide person-centred services for the population of Barra and Vatersay. The care housing will be able to support individuals requiring 24/7 care with more personalised space and opportunities to choose how their care is delivered.

A more personalised environment helps support people with dementia and other residents to have their care environment suited to their needs.



**2.38 What assessment has been carried out regarding the current residents in St Brendan's care home and their suitability for living in flats?**

The care plans and supports will transition to the new service and be adapted to accommodate individual preferences for support within the new environment.

**2.39 Outside space will be very limited for residents in the Care Units.**

A communal external courtyard is provided for residents in the heart of the building. Small garden spaces are provided to each flat.

**2.40 Has the University of Stirling guidance on dementia-friendly design been consulted with? In particular, the design of corridors? Will there be any dedicated areas for physical and mental stimulation?**

Consultation with University of Stirling will be ongoing as the design develops. They have been consulted by the project team already as part of original proposals for the St Brendan's site

**2.41 Is there a strategy to allow for any future expansions of the building?**

There is no scope for expansion on the site, however the model of care which allows for people to remain on island providing whatever extra care is needed is the same model as that provided in peoples own homes. This allows for the model to be flexed within the community to meet demand as it expands or contracts.

**2.42 Can the social care facility relocate to another site to allow space to fit all school accommodation? Can this eliminate the need to cross the road for the sports facilities?**

Early studies considered the possibility of locating the Social Care Housing south of the A888. However, it was a requirement of service delivery that it be in close proximity to the hospital and health centre facilities.

**2.43 Is it possible to relocate the care flats and allow views of activity going on – such as towards the road/school/play area? This will be beneficial for their mental health.**

The flats are orientated to north, east and south. The need to keep the social care facility on one level for ease of operation means that flats will have different outlooks rather than all in one direction.

**2.44 Why has the integrated hub approach been chosen rather than reusing the current hospital site?**

The existing hospital site was never large enough to cover the health and social care reprovion and required the purchase of adjacent land. It should also be noted that the previous project comprised smaller social care units than is now proposed in the campus and the larger units would not now be able to be accommodated on the site originally proposed for the health and social care reprovion.

### 3 EDUCATION AND LEARNING

#### 3.1 Will Barra Children's Centre (BCC) be given the opportunity to consult on the design of the space inside and out?

Yes, the BCC will be involved in how the building is designed and how space is used as one of several community partners.

#### 3.2 If the BCC current services (8-10 hrs) can be delivered from the New Hub, will there be opportunity to grow our services and develop further services with local partners. (e.g., NHS Exclusive use of a space/room?)

We would plan for what they are doing now, offer other opportunities re café etc. and consider any business development they may be considering.

#### 3.3 BCC has a lot of play equipment for children aged 0-12, both outdoor and indoor. Will we be given space for storage of this equipment?

Yes, the BCC would be provided with adequate storage and space to deliver their service. Some resources would be common such as reception, some storage, meeting rooms, training rooms, resource rooms such as photocopying etc.

#### 3.4 Can I also clarify whether there is an opportunity for the BCC to be part of the new hub but retain the building for community use, for whatever this may be, should the community ask this?

Unfortunately, no. For the campus facility to be able to accommodate the BCC, their current building would have to be demolished. However, the BCC would be compensated for the loss of the building in line with a valuation provided by an independent third party such as the District Valuation Office.

#### 3.5 I am concerned about the size of the school and the allocated external space for older pupils. Will it meet future pupil numbers demands? The roof play area will not be suitable to provide adequate external play space due to Barra's weather.

The space budget for the new school has been developed by the education consultant, Space Strategies, based on projected pupil rolls provided by CnES, and incorporates provision for a future increase in pupil numbers.

The potential roof play area is being explored as one way of enhancing external play provision for learners.

**3.6 Is there an assembly space in the school building that can also be used for performances and similar events?**

The main sports hall will be fitted out to allow use as a performance space and formal assembly area. We are also designing the dining area to function as an informal assembly space for learners

**3.7 Why are the classrooms not larger? Is there a dedicated classroom for each subject?**

The space budget for the project which sets classroom sizes, and the type and number of classrooms has been developed by Space Strategies, a specialist educational consultant in conjunction with CnES. Scottish Government metrics give set areas per learner which dictates class size, and new models of teaching have moved away from single use classrooms to avoid spaces being underused. The campus design is based on this space budget.

**3.8 Is there a private meeting room for parental consultation?**

Yes, this is located close to the main entrance area.

**3.9 Is there an indoor recreational space in the education areas, where children can socialise?**

The space budget allows for a series of internal breakout spaces and the use of the dining/ informal assembly area as places which can be used by learners for socialising. It is also proposed that older learners could make use of the community café.

**3.10 Will there be a wheelchair accessible toilet on the second floor of the school?**

Yes, this will be provided in accordance with the Technical Standards

**3.11 What is the fire evacuation procedure for disabled people on the upper floor of the school?**

A temporary waiting space will be provided in each protected zone of each upper level with a communication point to facilitate the management of the assisted evacuation.

**3.12 What service will the Learning Resource Centre provide exactly? Is this going to lead to the removal of the post of librarian from the island? Where will the hardcopy literature and logbooks, currently in the library, be in the new campus?**

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) will provide a service and resources comparable to the existing community library. Futureproofing is currently being assessed to ensure the accommodation, resources, furniture, and equipment will continue to be fit for purpose.

**3.13 Is there more information on the decant strategy and the costs?**

The decant strategy continues to be developed with the Comhairle's Education, Skills and Children's Services department and management and staff from the school and the Barra Children's Centre in developing and evaluating several options associated with accommodation, layouts, and locations.

The decant costs are included in the overall project costs. All operational impact costs will be met within existing resource budgets.

It is currently envisaged that the decant facilities will be in place for the period Spring 2022 to Summer 2024. The detail of the decant arrangements is being discussed and agreed with the Education Team to ensure continuity of service.

At present 20 classrooms will be provided across the Children's Centre, Early Years, Primary and Secondary. Science and Technology Specialist Units will also be provided.

**3.14 Will Eoilgarry continue to operate as a separate school during decant? Will the primary pupils from Castlebay going to be decanted over to Eoilgarry?**

The primary school at Castlebay Community School will be included within the proposed decant campus, along with the early learning and Barra Children's Centre, all with separate facilities while Eoilgarry continues to operate as a separate school.

**3.15 Would it be possible to phase construction to match demolition with buildings relating to the secondary school being built in advance of its demolition and similarly for the primary school buildings? If moving A888 to the north of the site is possible, will it be possible to phase construction and allow for the school to remain in operation during the construction of the new school?**

This option was explored in detail; however, this was not found to be feasible for several reasons including health and safety of pupils next to a live demolition/construction site, noise, site constraints, land ownership issues and utility services cannot be split to serve different areas of the existing building.