



Remote & Rural  
Steering Group

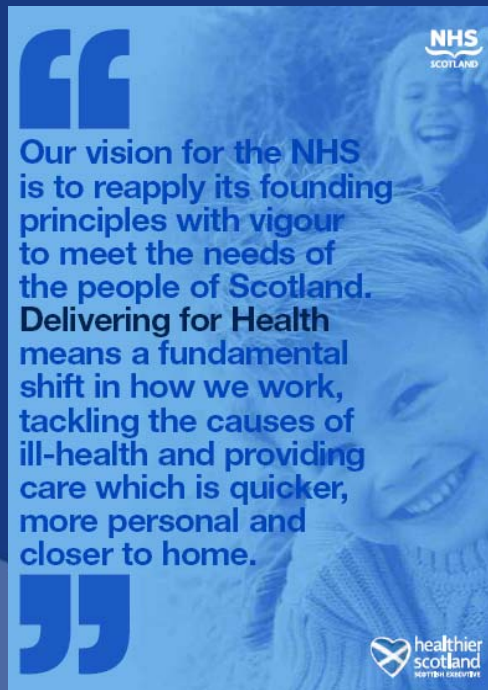
# Delivering for Rural Health

Mrs. Fiona Grant Project Manager  
National Remote and Rural Project

# Delivering for Health



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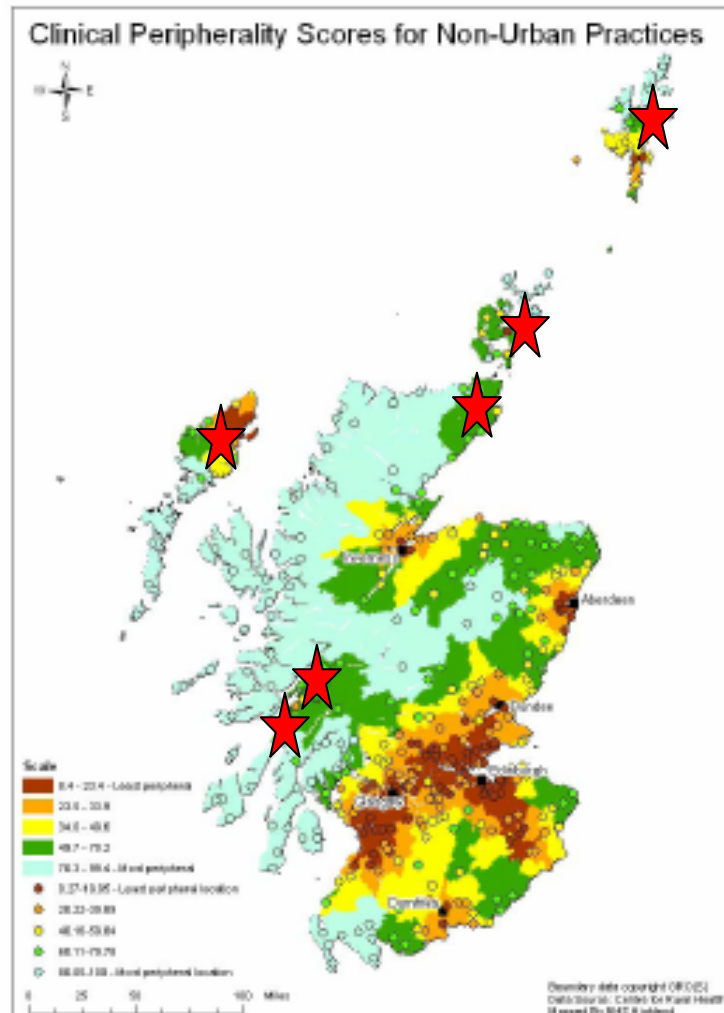


- Identified in excess of 100 specific actions for national regional and local delivery
- Development of Sustainable healthcare for R&R areas
- Develop vSRH
- Review ERMS

Better Health, Better Care.....

# R&R Scotland

Map 2. Clinical Peripherality Score for Non Urban Practices



- Clinical Peripherality Index
- 6 RGH
- One fifth population
- More than half land-mass

# The R&R Project



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Rural General  
Hospitals

Primary Care  
Framework

Rural Education  
Strategy

EMRS

Rural Training  
Pathway

# Objectives



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1. Deliver a strategy for sustainable healthcare in remote and rural Scotland,
2. Define the role and function of a Rural General Hospital;
3. Develop a framework of generic principles of service delivery for primary care in remote settings;
4. Develop a rural education strategy,
5. Review the role of the Helicopter Emergency Medical Retrieval Services; and
6. Develop a workforce planning arrangements to support the remote and rural agenda;

# Emerging Model

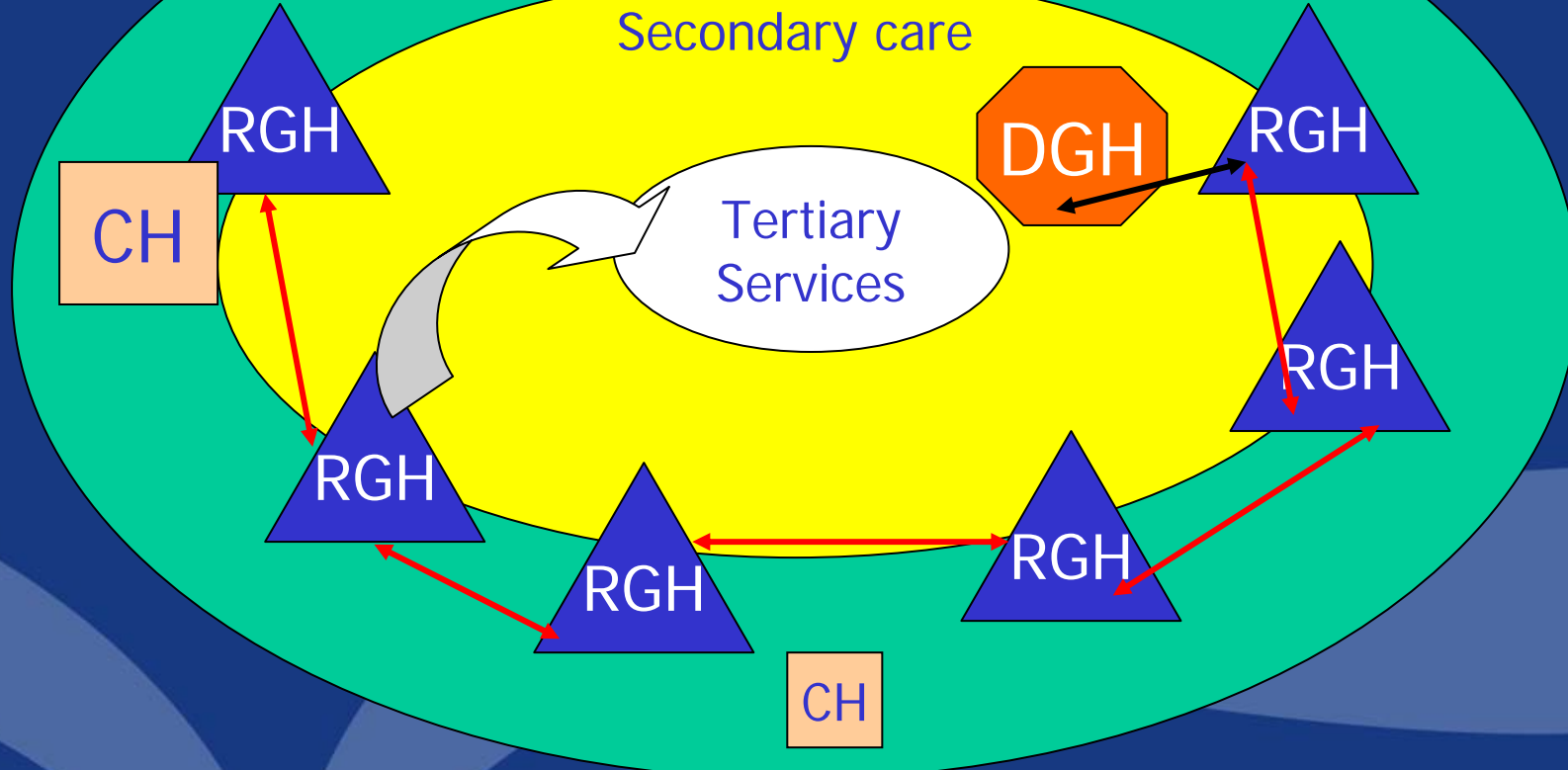


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Extended Primary Care team

Secondary care



Standards & Formal Networks



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# Remote Primary Care

# EMERGING MODEL – Primary Care Framework



**SUPPORT NETWORKS**  
 Named responsible specialists  
 Twinning of single/small practices  
 Integration with RGHs, Comm. Hospitals  
 Integrated Strategic Planning

**WORCEFORCE**  
 Multi-skilled Generalists  
 Rotations with larger centres  
 Education  
 ↑ Distance learning  
 Rural fellows, Nurse practitioner, Paramedics  
 Remote & Rural community resilience

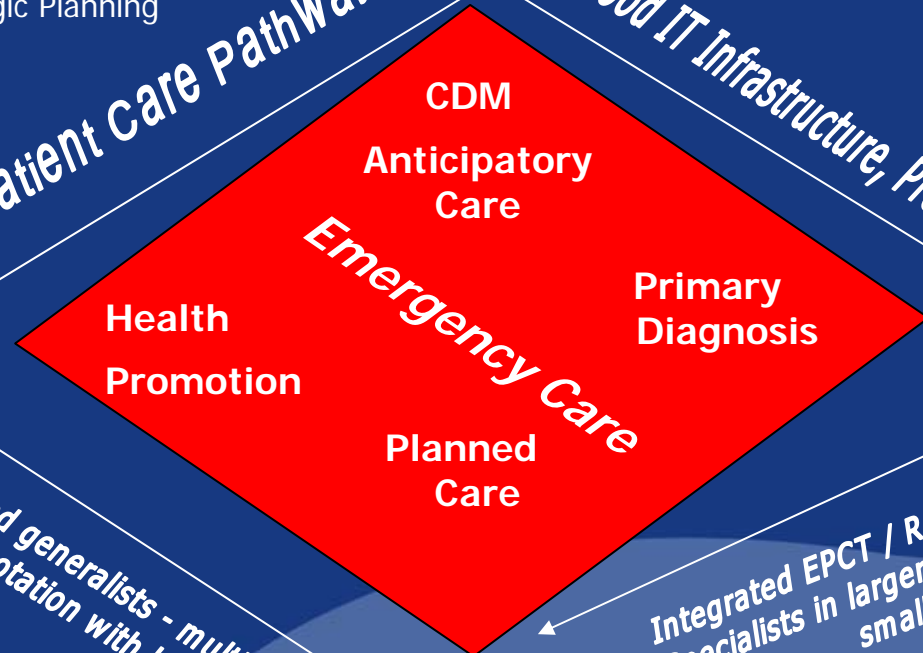
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*Robust Patient Care Pathways*

*Good IT Infrastructure, Premises and Diagnostics*

*Robustly trained generalists - multiskilling / role blurring & rotation with larger centres*

*Integrated EPCT / RGH team networked to Specialists in larger centres & grouping of small practices*



**INFRASTRUCTURE**  
 Integrated Transport Systems  
 IT – Broadband, local & networked  
 Diagnostics (labs & imaging)  
 E-health Solutions  
 Telemedicine/Telemetry

**COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**  
 Self Care  
 NHS 24  
 Anticipatory Care  
 Emergency Response  
 Retrieval Teams/Transfer

# Emerging Model



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## CURRENT

- **Primary Care Teams**
  - fragmented
  - different organisations
  - duplication
  - reactive care
- **Infrastructure**
  - disparate bases
  - minimal diagnostics
  - variances in IT
  - access to intermediate care varied

## EVOLVING MODEL

- **Extended CCT**
  - integrated
  - partnership working
  - seamless care
  - Anticipatory care
- **Infrastructure**
  - purpose built premises
  - good diagnostics
  - broadband access as min.
  - local access to intermediate care

# Emerging Model



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## CURRENT

- **Education**
  - varied skills
  - difficult to access
  - not rural specific
  - minimal rotation to bigger centres
- **Model of Care**
  - self care infrequent
  - reactive care
  - variation in care pathways
  - multiple secondary care visits

## EVOLVING MODEL

- **Education**
  - generalists
  - distance learning
  - RHEAL
  - supported rotations to bigger centres for CPD
- **Model of Care**
  - self care encouraged
  - anticipatory care
  - robust negotiated care pathways
  - shifting the balance of care to locally based care

# Emerging Model



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## CURRENT

- **Support Networks**
  - few formal networks
  - minimal care pathways
  - no accountability for R&R areas
- **Transport**
  - lack of public transport infrastructure
  - PTS access difficult
  - Slow 999 response
  - single manned vehicles
  - minimal retrieval

## EVOLVING MODEL

- **Support Networks** Steering Group
  - establishment of formal works
  - robust care pathways
  - responsibility for supporting R&R areas
- **Transport**
  - integrated transport strategy
  - transparent PTS service
  - Responsive 999 calls
  - two person vehicles
  - ERMS

# Rural General Hospitals



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- Six RGH – Orkney, Shetland, Wick, Western Isles, Fort William & Oban
- Debate re: Stranraer, Lochgilphead & Broadford

# Emerging Definition



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The RGH undertakes the management of acute medical, surgical emergencies and is the emergency centre for the community, including the place of safety for mental health emergencies. It is characterised by more advanced level of diagnostic services than a Community Hospital and will provide a range of outpatient, day case, in-patient and rehabilitation services'.

# Underlying Principles



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RGHs should have:

- A **CORE** range of services and not be different in different places;
- Standard Protocols for procedures and transfers
- Formal links with other centres, developed through Multi-disciplinary networks;
- Access to a standard range of diagnostics – some local, some distant;



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# What should an RGH do?

# What should an RGH do?

## Needs Assessment Evidence

- Ambulatory paediatric services
- RGH treatment of mental illness
- Surgery
- Obstetrics
- Diagnostics
- Telemedicine



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# Role & function



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## Unscheduled

- Practitioner led Emergency Dept.
- Resuscitation, stabilisation & Transfer
- Manage acute medical & Surgical admissions, including simple fracture management
- M/W led maternity
- Neonatal Resus
- Management of acutely ill child before transfer

## Planned

- Management of Patients with stroke
- Rehabilitation & Step-down
- Post op step-down & follow-up
- Management of chronic disease & LT conditions, including Dialysis, cancer care as part of network
- Ambulatory care for children
- Routine selected elective surgery
- Visiting services

# Role & Function/2



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## Diagnostics

- Digitised Image capture, ultrasound & CT
- Labs: Biochemistry, Haematology & cross match blood
- Endoscopy: Upper & lower GI, Cystoscopy
- Echocardiography

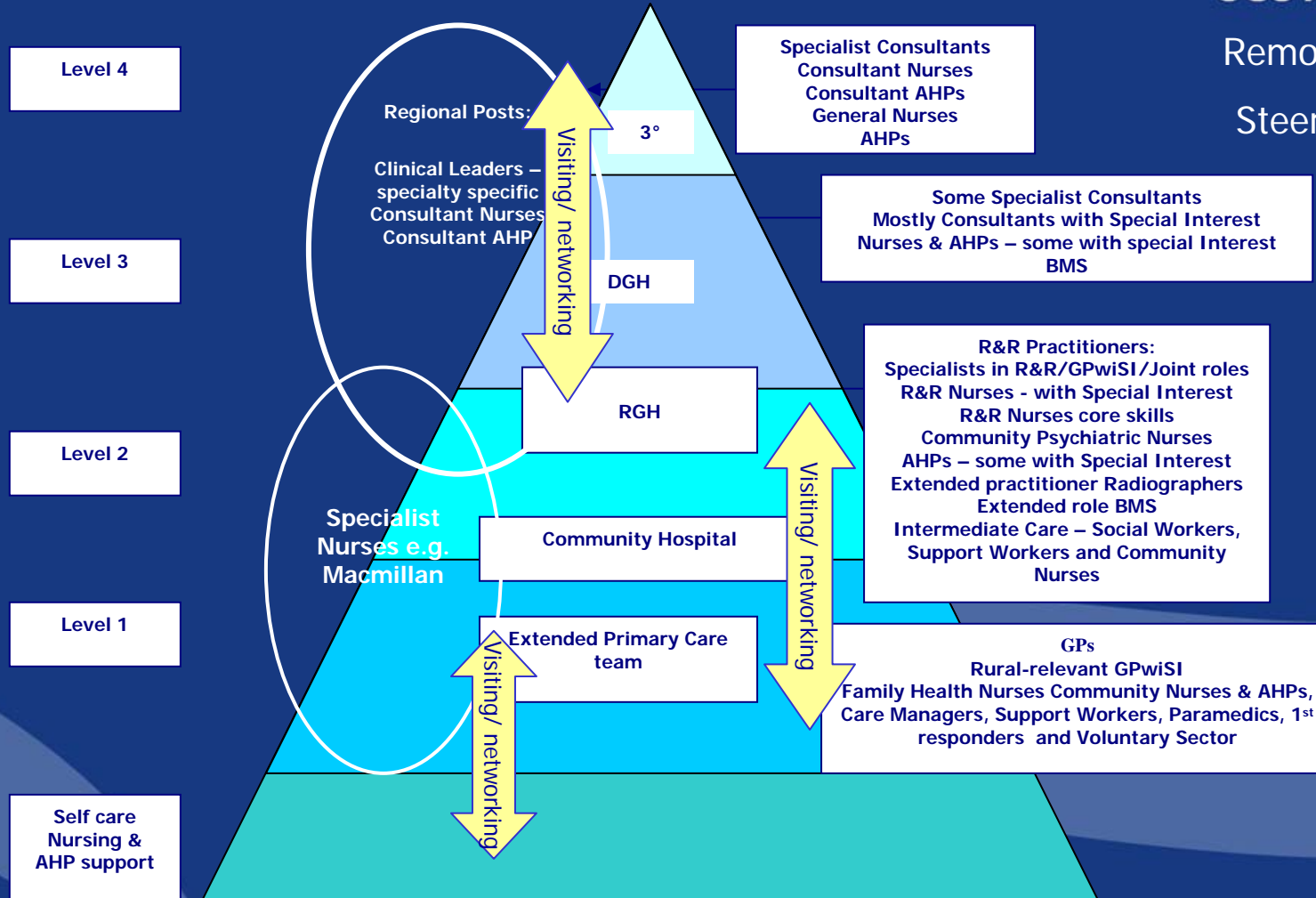
## Support

- Clinical Decision support via ehealth links
- Formal networks
- Retrieval & transfer arrangements
- Pharmacy Support

# Emerging model



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# Education Strategy for Rural Healthcare



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- Stakeholder Event May 2006, supported by research & lit. review
- Rural Healthcare Educational Plan should be:
  - Support strategic alliances
  - NES as broker between service & providers
  - Rural Healthcare Educational Alliance (RHEAL)
- NES OBC approved in February 2007

# Commitments



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- Legitimisation of sustainable remote and rural healthcare
- Integration of services and teams across the continuum of care
- Obligatory networks
- Locally available diagnostics
- Remote and rural specific and accessible and supported education
- Integrated fundamental transport



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# Discussion