NHS Ayrshire & Arran is reviewing the way in which it provides chemotherapy services, and is asking for members of the public to get involved.

There are around 8,500 people living with cancer in Ayrshire and Arran. These people are cared for by local cancer services in hospital and in the community.

The chemotherapy units at University Hospitals Ayr and Crosshouse carry out around 180 chemotherapy treatments each week. However, as the incidence of cancer is expected to rise by 1.4 per cent each year, it is anticipated that the number of chemotherapy treatments will significantly increase in the future.

Peter MacLean, Clinical Director for Cancer Services, explains: “As we expect to carry out more treatments in the future and help more people to use outpatient and day chemotherapy services rather than inpatient services, we are now looking at how we can redesign our current services to meet the needs of those living with cancer into the future.

“We plan to speak to as many cancer patients, families, carers, cancer services staff, other services that work with the cancer service, and members of the public as possible. This will allow us to explore how well our current services meet their needs and identify ways we could do things differently to better meet those needs in the future.

“We will then use this information to help us identify some possible options for improvement to the service.”

Option appraisal is a process that is often used when considering a new way to provide services. Option appraisals allow a wide number of views to be considered in order to create as robust an assessment of options as possible.

The group involved in the option appraisal will include a range of clinicians (doctors, nurses and allied health professionals), managers, support service staff, representatives from other services that work with the chemotherapy service, patients, family members, carers and other members of the public.
Following the option appraisal process, it is hoped the group will have selected a preferred option by the end of summer 2015. There will then be a period of working on the design of a new service model. Once this is complete, Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board will decide if the model should go out for consultation with both cancer services staff and the public before the service model is taken forward.

For more information, or to find out how to get involved, contact:

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