

NHS Wiltshire Update for Calne Pilot Area Board – January 2009

Extended Hours

Over 95% of Wiltshire's GP practices (59 out of 62) are now offering extended hours to patients and two more are planning to do so in the very near future. These extended hours will make life easier for many patients by giving the chance to make an appointment before or after work, or on a Saturday.

NHS Treatment Centre in development

The new NHS treatment centre at Devizes is being built and will open November 2009. The centre will provide day surgical treatment, outpatient appointments and diagnostic tests including 2 operating theatres and will increase the choice of NHS treatment available to Wiltshire patients. The site is close to the town centre in Green Lane on NHS land adjacent to existing health services.

Community Health Services move to Chippenham Hospital

From 15th December 2008, a number of services run by Wiltshire Community Health Services will transfer from premises at Goldney Avenue, Chippenham, to newly refurbished rooms at the Community Hospital. The services moving are:

- Health Visitors and Baby Clinic,
- School Nurses
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Diabetes Nurse
- Continence Service
- Child Continuing Care Team

The contact number for all these services will be 01249 447100.

Multi-agency Alcohol Strategy

NHS Wiltshire's Board has recently approved a multi-agency strategy to reduce the harm caused by alcohol in Wiltshire. The strategy involves police, fire, probation and youth offending services and aims to tackle dangerous drinking patterns, looking specifically at longer-term solutions to Wiltshire's drink problems.

Health messages hit home with Wiltshire's young people

A recent survey of young people in Wiltshire and their health related behaviour shows that health messages are making an impact. The findings show that

- Illegal drug use amongst Wiltshire young people has shown a significant any steady decline over recent years, with use in the last year or month down by more than 50% since 2002.
- 96% of secondary school pupils had not used an illegal drug in the last month.
- Rates of smoking and drinking among primary and secondary school pupils have also reduced significantly since 2002.
- Rates of smoking and drinking are similar to those recorded in other counties, although Wiltshire secondary school pupils are more likely to say they have never smoked.
- Pupils in both primary and secondary schools are now more likely to eat fruit and vegetables on most days compared with those in other counties.