

NHS Update – December 2010

Preferred provider organisation confirmed for community-based health services in Wiltshire

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been named as the preferred provider for community-based health services in Wiltshire from 1 April 2011, NHS Wiltshire announced today.

The announcement means that community-based NHS services for the whole of Wiltshire, plus maternity services for Bath & North East Somerset and parts of Somerset, will transfer to Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Services to patients will continue unchanged as this is a transfer of organisational responsibility and not a change to the way services are delivered or the places where they are provided. The transfer is subject to the completion of legal formalities between NHS Wiltshire and Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and approval of the transfer by Monitor (the independent regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts Monitor). Because of the preparatory work undertaken by the two organisations, neither of these processes is thought to pose particular difficulties.

The announcement of the preferred provider organisation is a key milestone in the Transforming Community Services project in Wiltshire, which sees health services currently provided by Wiltshire Community Health Services, such as district nursing and maternity services, transfer to new employing organisations. The project started in July 2010, following the Government's publication of the revised Operating Framework for the NHS in England for 2010-11, which requires primary care trusts to transfer the provision of services to different organisations by 1 April 2011. This transfer does not change the range of services provided, nor the places where they are provided. The change is a transfer of responsibility from one organisation to another.

The formal transfer of the services to the new employer will take place at midnight on 31 March 2011. Clinical staff and some non-clinical support staff who work in the transferring services, such as nurses, midwives, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, will all transfer to the new organisation at the same time.

NHS Wiltshire Chief Executive Jeff James said:

“Our provider arm, Wiltshire Community Health Services, is a first-class organisation, that has shown over the last four years that it leads the way in developing services in the community. To take two examples, our maternity services and community nursing and therapy services have been nationally recognised as setting the example for others to follow.

“In responding to the Government policy to transfer services to other providers we have had three aims:

- To safeguard the quality of services to patients
- To safeguard the conditions for effective clinical practice
- To minimise disruption and lost opportunities for our staff”

“We have run Transforming Community Services in Wiltshire as a ‘managed transfer’ process enabling local organisations to bid to run the services from next year. Following a thorough and tough evaluation of the submissions we received from local NHS provider organisations, we have agreed that community-based services in Wiltshire, and Wiltshire Maternity Services which provides care for women in north and west Wiltshire, Bath & North East Somerset, and parts of Somerset, will transfer to Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with effect from 1 April 2011.”

Full steam ahead for Westbury Primary Care Development

The planning application for a new Primary Care Development in Westbury has been approved by Wiltshire Council. The development, which will be located at Leigh Park, will include an extended modern GP surgery which combines the Eastleigh Surgery and the White Horse Surgery with a range of other health care services, all under one roof.

Bill Fanning, Chairman of the Westbury Patients Forum, said: “This is great news for people in Westbury and the surrounding area. The development is a modern, purpose-built centre with the space and health facilities to serve the town properly. Initially there were a few concerns about transport, and we have worked hard to resolve the details with Wiltshire Council and colleagues from voluntary services. We’re delighted that we can now proceed”.

Plans for its development have evolved through the work of a Steering Group with members drawn from the Westbury Group Practice, Patients’ Forum, League of Friends, the Town Council and NHS Wiltshire.

Dr Debbie Beale, a GP at Eastleigh Surgery, said: “This is an exciting time for Eastleigh Surgery, its patients and its staff. The approval endorses all the hard work and commitment from everyone involved in our project. The new development will give us the space to look after our patients in modern purpose-built rooms, ensuring that we can continue to deliver high-quality GP care with privacy and dignity, and being located alongside the other health facilities on the site will ensure patients receive care which is as smooth and seamless as possible”.

Jeff James, Chief Executive of NHS Wiltshire said: “This development is fantastic for the people of Westbury and also excellent news for the NHS in Wiltshire, as it sets a high standard for the ongoing development of the other Primary Care Centres elsewhere in the county – Devizes, Trowbridge and Salisbury”.

The Primary Care Development will accommodate all the services that are currently provided from Eastleigh and White Horse Surgery, and in addition to this there will be a number of new services available that Westbury people currently have to travel to other towns to access. The services available will be:

Staying healthy this winter

With a nip of frost in the air, the NHS is gearing up for its busiest season of the year. Common viruses such as flu and the ‘winter vomiting’ bug, norovirus, often take hold just as the cold weather starts to bite, causing extra challenges to our health services.

One of the biggest problems is keeping viruses from spreading, and the best contribution we can all make is – if we're suffering, stay at home and use the phone to ring your GP or NHS Direct.

Flu vaccinations

GP practices around the county have started running flu vaccination clinics. This year the vaccine contains protection against H1N1 (no longer considered a pandemic, but one of this season's predominant strains of flu) as well as other strains of the virus. One simple injection should provide complete protection, and we're urging anyone who hasn't already been vaccinated to contact their GP.

Military families trained to improve health and wellbeing

The family members of service personnel based at Tidworth, Larkhill and Bulford have been involved in a successful pilot scheme to become Health Trainers. The scheme is commissioned and funded by NHS Wiltshire and managed by Community First.

Health Trainers provide information, motivation and practical support to individual adults on a one-to-one basis to make changes to lifestyles, to improve health and well being and to minimise health risks, as well as supporting behaviour change – which includes support to stop smoking, promotes physical activity and signposts to specialist support such as drugs and alcohol services. Health Trainers also support healthy eating linked to weight loss. All the initiatives have impacts on people's emotional health and well being.

Maggie Rae, Corporate Director of Public Health and Well Being, said:

“The positive impact which this programme will have on the families of our servicemen and women in terms of health and well being is extremely encouraging. By providing families in Tidworth with the knowledge, skills and support needed to lead healthier lifestyles, Health Trainers can encourage other members of the community to improve their health, as well as help to reduce health problems. These Trainers are now part of the Public Health community and are able to deliver really serious support to people and their colleagues”.

Mental Health Services

NHS Wiltshire and Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP) have been working on re-designing mental health services in Wiltshire since spring 2010. With wide engagement from service users and clinicians, the work builds on a programme within AWP of reviewing and modernising their services and has received a positive response from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The new service model is 'ageless' and establishes pathways for any adult over 18 years. Part of the Trust's plans include a shift in resources from inpatient beds to community services, with fewer inpatient beds clustered onto fewer sites to improve the safety and clinical quality of services. There will be 24/7 access to services with a focus on re-enablement and supporting people to live their lives, faster access to assessment services and the most appropriate AWP service and direct access to specialist services. This will result in the closure of twenty inpatient beds at Green Lane Hospital, Devizes. AWP's Clinical

director Dr Julie Hankin said the money saved by the bed closures would be re-invested in the service. "We're spending public money on keeping beds open which aren't being used and we feel this is a fantastic chance to use that money more effectively," she said. "The money is being invested in other parts of the service, so although it's about efficiencies, it's not about ripping money out of the service." The redesign is expected to save £3.3million which will be reinvested in the new services.

The Annual General Meeting and Board meeting of NHS Wiltshire will be held on **Wednesday 19 January at 10am - 2011 at Southgate House**. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Papers are published a week before the meeting on www.wiltshire.nhs.uk or upon request from Stacey Saunders, NHS Wiltshire (tel: 01380 733839, email: stacey.saunders@wiltshire.nhs.uk).

For further information or copies of documents referred to above, please contact Jo Howes, Community Engagement Manager, 01380 733929 or jo.howes@wiltshire.nhs