

March 2013 update

This update will be the last from NHS Wiltshire; from April 1st 2013 the commissioning of local health care services will be managed by Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group, who will provide the first of their updates to Local Area Boards next month. In the meantime, a message from NHS Wiltshire's Chairman, Tony Barron, as the PCT hands over the baton of responsibility:

In 2006, I took the helm of NHS Wiltshire, a new Primary Care Trust merging three smaller organisations. Today, as we move towards a new model of NHS commissioning, I would like to record some of the ways in which NHS Wiltshire has made a difference.

When the new board first met, we had a £63million debt and a system that provided patchy and uneven care to a widely dispersed population. Some areas were very well served but others, including some of the most deprived parts of Wiltshire, were under-resourced. Unlikely as it may have seemed at the time, we managed to tackle this debt while improving services across the county.

Doing this meant keeping tight control of our purse-strings, driving a hard bargain with those providing the services, and a remorseless focus on getting the best value for every NHS £. Inevitably and very publicly, this meant taking some tough decisions, but also introducing some award-winning innovations in care such as the Neighbourhood Teams and Primary Care Centres. Today, people in Wiltshire benefit from some of the most cutting-edge and innovative community health services, many of which are the envy of other parts of the UK and are now being replicated due to their outstanding success.

In 2013, Wiltshire's NHS has been 'in the black' for four consecutive years. We have new buildings providing top-notch primary care facilities. Thousands more patients are treated by NHS dentists. People can see a GP at a time that suits them, and Wiltshire was rated one of the top six PCTs for sharing health resources fairly in a national study.

Some of our legacy successes are detailed below:

Neighbourhood Teams: Introduced in 2007, Wiltshire's pioneering Neighbourhood Teams have won ringing endorsements from the patients they care for. Caring for patients mainly in their own homes, the teams bring nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and others together to provide seamless, all-round care. Eleven Neighbourhood Teams cover the whole county and provide a range of services including rapid response to patients' urgent needs, rehabilitation services, and nursing and therapy services as part of a planned care package. The model of service provided by Neighbourhood Teams is being replicated across the UK to ensure that patients maintain their independence for longer and enjoy a better quality of life – by cutting down on the need to be admitted to hospital and by helping to reduce delays in patients leaving hospital.

Primary Care Centres: Doctors, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, working together in modern buildings ... all but one of the five developments we envisaged in 2007 are up and running: Malmesbury (opened 2008), Westbury White Horse Health Centre

(opened 2012), Salisbury (new replacement surgery at Avon Approach, and Primary Care development at Old Manor underway), Trowbridge (new replacement surgery development underway, hospital refurbished). Progress on the Devizes Primary Care Centre is far less advanced. It has been difficult to find a site that everyone can agree on and which is affordable, but the CCG will continue to work to a successful conclusion.

Dentistry: A huge turn-round in access to NHS dentistry has been one of NHS Wiltshire's biggest achievements. Consistently number one on the 'wish list' expressed by Wiltshire people at our regular Stakeholder Assemblies, access to an NHS dentist has gone up by a third in the lifetime of NHS Wiltshire. Thanks to an investment of £3.1m, NHS Wiltshire expanded dentistry overall, but also invested in measures to shorten waiting times for orthodontic treatment and a highly successful programme to improve the oral health of under-fives, setting a foundation for a lifetime of healthy teeth.

Stroke: Wiltshire is one of the country's top performers in the care and treatment of people who have had a stroke, according to the CQC in 2011.

Cancer: People diagnosed with cancer in Wiltshire do better than the national average, according to the ONS figures. Better screening services and encouraging a healthier lifestyle are the two prongs of the county's Cancer Reform Strategy.

Cleaner hospitals: Wiltshire Community Health Service was commended by the CQC for its effectiveness in tackling hospital-acquired infections (figures produced prior to management of WCHS transferring to Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust).

Stop smoking: Wiltshire's Stop Smoking Service has consistently smashed through its targets, helping thousands of smokers to quit.

These and many more success stories make me proud of what we've done at NHS Wiltshire. I'd like to thank the extraordinary team of people who have worked so hard to make this happen, and send Wiltshire CCG the very best wishes for continued success as the National Health Service moves towards a new era of delivering health care.

Tony Barron
Chair, NHS Wiltshire
March 2013

The next PCT Board Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13th March** – venue and time to be confirmed – please refer to the NHS Wiltshire website: www.wiltshire.nhs.uk
Members of the public are welcome to attend. Papers are published a week before the meeting on or on request from Stacey Saunders, NHS Wiltshire, email: stacey.saunders@wiltshire.nhs.uk