

NHS Update – April 2011

Management cost reductions

NHS Wiltshire has been successful in reducing the number of posts originally identified as being at risk of redundancy from 55 to 25. In addition, a further 19 people have already chosen to leave, or are due to leave NHS employment through an NHS resignation scheme. This means that a total reduction of 44 posts will have been made by 31 March 2011, covering a combination of management and administrative roles.

Health and Wellbeing Boards lead the way in the South West

Care Services Minister Paul Burstow unveiled that all local authorities in the South West have signed up to be early implementers of new cross-working boards. This means patients and the public can expect a more joined-up service from the NHS and local councils in the future as part of broader plans to modernise the NHS.

All 15 local authorities covering the South West have signed up to join a network of early implementers for health and wellbeing boards that will strip away divisions between the NHS and local authorities. This will give communities a greater say in the services needed to provide care for local people and to tackle the wider influencers of health such as transport, housing and leisure services.

Devizes Health Clinic

The decision to transfer services from Devizes Health Centre to Devizes Community Hospital was taken at NHS Wiltshire's Public Board Meeting in March 2010, as part of the PCT's long-standing plan for primary health care in Devizes.

Patients who use Devizes Health Clinic know that the building is in a certain state of disrepair; it therefore makes sense to dispose of the property so that we can keep and improve the ones that are sustainable to meet the needs of patients and staff. We plan to move the services from the Health Clinic to the hospital within the 2010/11 financial year and are currently planning the room configurations for services in the hospital so that services can be provided there from mid-April, located in the area which was previously used as the maternity wing.

All the services currently provided at the Health Clinic – the Health Visitor Service, the Emergency Dental Access service, podiatry, paediatric clinic and continence service - will move over to the hospital. There are no plans to begin marketing the Health Clinic site at any stage before the transfer of any service is complete. NHS Wiltshire will report any contract for the sale or lease of Devizes Health Clinic as a matter of public record in the usual way, which is through the Register of Sealings in its public Board Meetings.

GP Practice merger proposed

Plans for two Trowbridge GP practices - Bradford Road Medical Centre and Adcroft Surgery – to merge and co-locate in improved premises were announced at Trowbridge Area Board meeting on Thursday 17 March 2011.

The proposed GP-led Primary Care Development will provide flexible accommodation to enable GPs to provide a robust service with resources to deal with the future challenges of providing NHS care to patients.

Part of the development will be on land owned by NHS Wiltshire, which is currently used under licence by Trowbridge Cricket Club as a practice pitch. Outline planning permission was granted to the Primary Care Trust in February 2010 for the development of the land, and the area required for the Primary Care Development will now be sold to the GP practices in order for the new premises to be built.

The new building will consist of a two-story extension to the existing Adcroft Surgery premises, with additional car parking, an access road and a pharmacy building. Pedestrian access will also be possible from Adcroft Street through the Trowbridge Community Hospital site. The total premises size, including the existing Adcroft premises, will be approximately 1700 square meters. Car parking will be vastly improved, with a total of 108 spaces (30 existing, 78 new), and a new road from Seymour Road across the site will further improve access for patients.

Services offered at the development will include:

- A diagnostics 'pad', which will allow mobile units to provide breast screening and MRI screening
- An ambulance stand-by point in the car park
- An on-site pharmacy
- An on-site dental practice with an NHS dental contract

The development will be funded by the two practices, with an £87,500 annual investment from NHS Wiltshire.

Help for Adults with Eating Disorders in Wiltshire

NHS Wiltshire has commissioned a new Wiltshire service for Adults with Eating Disorders which will begin on 1st May 2011. The contract for the service, to be provided by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, is for a period of three years.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust has two specialist Eating Disorders Inpatient units – Cotswold House Oxford and Cotswold House Marlborough - the 12-bedded inpatient Unit based at Savernake Hospital. The new service will provide a full range of interventions, all based in Wiltshire so it is easier for patients to be treated closer to home. A website will offer guidance and advice for patients, carers and professionals and a multidisciplinary team will work with patients in the community. Those requiring treatment as day patients will be able to attend Cotswold House, Marlborough for one to seven days per week depending on their needs, which will help minimise disruption to employment, education or training. Inpatient treatment will be provided for the most unwell patients. The specialist unit based at Savernake Hospital has 12 en-suite bedrooms, day areas, a garden area and a suite of rooms for therapeutic activities. The inpatient team will working closely with community staff and inpatient teams will reduce emergency admissions to general hospitals. For patients with eating disorders who do require general hospital care for any reason, a specialist liaison service will be available.