

Media statement

29 June 2007

Full steam ahead for ten Neighbourhood Teams Marlborough team to wait until staff meetings are complete

Ten of the eleven Neighbourhood Teams which will deliver community-based health services across Wiltshire from July will 'go live' on Monday 2 July 2007.

The Neighbourhood Team covering Marlborough and its surrounding area will not go live straight away, as a small number of staff have expressed concern about being able to cover the range of shifts from 7am until 10pm. These concerns are to be addressed through a series of meetings with staff, beginning with individual one-to-one meetings next week.

In order to ensure that patients living in this area still have access to community-based health services around the clock, 21 inpatient beds will be provided at Savernake Hospital – six more than in Wiltshire PCT's original plans. This will ensure continued 24-hour provision for people living in Marlborough and surrounding areas.

The Neighbourhood Teams covering the rest of the county will become operational as planned on Monday 2 July 2007, and will work in conjunction with GPs and other community-based services in order to ensure patients have access to a wide range of care.

Managing Director of Wiltshire Community Health Services, Jenny Barker, said:
"This is a complex series of changes, and despite all the hard work which staff have put in over the past months, it is inevitable that there will be some small last-minute hitches. However, I am absolutely confident that these will be resolved through our one-to-one conversations with staff that we have planned for next week, and I can reassure the people of Wiltshire that no matter where they live – Marlborough, Malmesbury or Mere – they will continue to have access to a whole range of high quality services around the clock."

Ends

Contact details for further information:

Georgie Agass
Assistant Director – Communications
01380 733946 or 07971 889609

Note to editor:

The GP practices which are affected by this announcement are:

- Old School House Surgery
- Marlborough Surgery
- Ramsbury Surgery
- Sprays Surgery
- Pewsey Surgery
- The Bourne Valley Practice
- The Health Centre, Ludgershall