

Extract from:

WILTSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING IN PUBLIC OF THE BOARD OF
WILTSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST HELD AT 10.00AM ON TUESDAY
20 MAY 2008 IN THE ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH CENTRE, TROWBRIDGE**

[...]

40/05/08 -09

MELKSHAM MINOR INJURIES UNIT PETITION

TB reminded the Board that at the April meeting a petition had been received requesting a review of the decision to close the Minor Injury Unit at Melksham Community Hospital. The PCT's Governance Framework required the the petition to be included as a full agenda item at the next available Board Meeting. He welcomed Mary Jarvis to make a statement regarding the petition.

Mrs Jarvis said that she wished the Board to understand how difficult it was for people to get to Trowbridge from Melksham and that the community wanted at least a First Aid Station in their town. There was an increasing population with new housing developments. A significant percentage – 57% of the community area population had signed the petition and she hoped the Board would take it seriously.

AK introduced the paper and noted that the petition had been available to members and the public for inspection during the last week.

AK described the service that had been available at the MIU in Melksham until Spring 2007 when the hours had to be reduced because of staffing difficulties. The MIU had been seeing an average of 107 patients per week and a survey of travel methods had demonstrated that 80% of patients had travelled to the MIU by car. Around 300 patients each month were seen at an MIU or A&E Department outside of Melksham.

After the service change on 1st October 2007, patients had had the choice of attending a Minor Injuries Unit in either Trowbridge or Chippenham. 81 patients per week had travelled to these units compared with the one to two patients per week who had attended Trowbridge or Chippenham MIU's prior to the service reconfiguration. An audit of primary care activity had determined that for the practices in the town, around 92 additional consultations per annum were likely to be generated. The audit exercise with GPs had also confirmed that none of the GP practices in Melksham were willing to offer a Minor Injuries Service in the town.

In response to a comment from Brian Mudge regarding the fact that other communities were getting enhanced facilities via Primary Care Centres, SS said it was important to remember the span and range of services that were

currently available to patients in Melksham, in clinic settings and in their own homes. The PCT was committed to continuing to provide a range of services at Melksham Hospital and these largely mirrored the range of services, which would be provided from a Primary Care Centre.

JJ said that the Board would have to be convinced that there was a real need for an MIU service in Melksham and that service could be sustained given the low levels of activity and the previous difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff. He acknowledged the loss and concern expressed by the petition but said the PCT had to take a wider view. There was a comprehensive range of services and extended services available and Melksham was not especially disadvantaged. Taking money aside it would not be appropriate to reinstate the former pattern of service provision. It would be useful to improve public understanding regarding the range of services available however.

AGREED –

- 1. The Board agreed not to explore the option of St Damien's Surgery providing an enhanced Primary Care Minor Injuries Service and:**
- 2. Agreed not to restore the Minor Injury Unit to Melksham Hospital.**