



**Wiltshire**

## NHS Wiltshire Update– March 2009

### 1. Wiltshire ahead in dementia care

Health and social care organisations in Wiltshire are welcoming the launch of the national dementia strategy and the boost it will give to the county's existing provision of memory services.

The national dementia strategy contains plans for a network of memory clinics, offering specialist advice, treatment and support. They are a key plank of the national plan to transform the lives of people living with dementia.

Wiltshire set up its memory services for dementia sufferers several years ago, when the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) approved the use of dementia drugs on the NHS.

The strategy has been welcomed by NHS Wiltshire, which works in partnership with Wiltshire County Council and Alzheimer's organisations to support people diagnosed with dementia and their carers.

As well as memory clinics, this will involve a stakeholder group to identify priorities for dementia support in Wiltshire, and partnership with patients and carers to develop innovative services in the county.

### 2. Extended hours

Every GP practice in Wiltshire, including Calne, will be offering patients the chance to see their doctor in the evening or at the weekend from next month.

Currently, 61 out of 62 GP practices (98.4%) in the county are offering extended hours, and from the beginning of March, all practices in the county will be offering it, with Pewsey Surgery starting on 1 March 2009.

The figures show that Wiltshire is the top PCT in England for offering extended access to GPs. Just over 70% of practices in England and 83.4% of practices in the South West offer it.

### 3. Dedicated staff keep most services going despite snow

The majority of NHS services in Wiltshire continue to be delivered despite the bad weather which closed some roads and caused disruption across the county in February.

- All GP surgeries in Wiltshire remained open and working as usual
- Nurses, physiotherapists and other staff working in the 11 community-based Neighbourhood Teams across Wiltshire continued to carry out home visits to patients who need them, making use of specially-provided 4x4 vehicles supplied by Wiltshire Community Health Services where necessary
- In-patient beds in Chippenham, Savernake and Warminster Hospitals stayed open, providing treatment for patients, and hotel and catering staff continued to supply patients in these beds with meals and drinks
- The Dental Access Centres opened as normal
- Most outpatient clinics went ahead, and where clinics were unavoidably cancelled, patients were informed by telephone

- Maternity units at Chippenham, Trowbridge and the Princess Anne Wing in Bath remained open and deliveries went ahead as expected
- School nurses whose normal places of work were closed reported for duty in other teams, including providing care to children with long-term conditions.

Many clinical staff who had difficulty reaching their normal base of work but who live near other services, temporarily joined new teams to ensure they continued to deliver care to patients, and team leaders for all community-based services reported that essential care and treatment was delivered as normal.

#### 4. Campaign against unnecessary prescribing

Antibiotics can't be used to treat colds and flu, and taking them unnecessarily may mean they don't work when you really need them. That's the message coming from Wiltshire GPs as the government launches its latest campaign against unnecessary prescribing.

Press adverts and posters are appearing in newspapers and magazines aimed at patients and clinicians and intended to reduce unnecessary requests for antibiotics from patients. The campaign forms part of the Government's strategy to tackle the increasing problem antibiotic resistance which could make treatment for common bacterial infections such as pneumonia much more difficult in the future.

So when should you consult a doctor? NHS advice is to call your GP if: your cough lasts more than three weeks, you have shortness of breath or chest pains develop, or you already have a chest complaint.

#### 5. NHS Treatment Centre

The development of the new NHS treatment centre at Devizes continues and is on target to open November 2009. The centre will provide day surgical treatment, outpatient appointments and diagnostic tests including 2 operating theatres and will increase the choice of NHS treatment available to Wiltshire patients. The site is close to the town centre in Green Lane on NHS land adjacent to existing health services.

#### 6. Primary Care Centres

**Westbury** (Eastleigh Practice and PCT) – The outline business case for the Westbury Primary Care Centre has been agreed. The site has been identified and negotiations for purchase nearing completion, after which the developer will be appointed. The centre is expected to open by January 2011.

**Devizes** (Southbroom, St James and Lansdowne practices and PCT services from Devizes Community Hospital and Health Centre) – The outline business case for the Primary Care Centre has been agreed and the site identified. Negotiations for the land purchase are ongoing. The developer has been appointed and the architect is working on the first layout. The centre is anticipated to open in March 2011.

**Trowbridge** – 2 GP practices in Trowbridge (Adcroft and Bradford Road) will merge. The development is an extension of the existing Adcroft Practice and a Primary Care Centre in a separate building on same site. The outline business case has been agreed and a decision on the outline planning permission application is expected soon. The developer is not yet appointed. The centre is expected to open Winter 2012.

**Salisbury (1)** (Grove House and New Street practices and services from Central Health Clinic and Nunton Unit (Salisbury Foundation Trust)) - The outline business case for the Primary Care Centre has been agreed. The site has been identified and there are early discussions ongoing around land purchase. The developer is not yet appointed. The centre is expected to open late 2012.

**Salisbury (2)** (Castle Street Practice) - The outline business case has been agreed and further discussion will begin shortly.

NHS Wiltshire Board Meetings

The next Board meeting will be held on:

24<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 10am, venue to be confirmed. Papers are published a week before the meeting on [www.wiltshirepct.nhs.uk](http://www.wiltshirepct.nhs.uk) or on request from Maggie Goodman, NHS Wiltshire (telephone: 01380 733827, email: [maggie.goodman@wiltshire.nhs.uk](mailto:maggie.goodman@wiltshire.nhs.uk)).