

Update – June 2009

End of life care:

A new strategy setting out a vision for the best quality care across Wiltshire for all adults approaching the end of their life has been approved by the Board of NHS Wiltshire.

NHS Wiltshire's End of Life Care Strategy has been developed with Wiltshire Council, health and social care professionals and voluntary partners to ensure that everyone's wishes around end of life care are identified and respected, and dignity is preserved.

NHS Wiltshire will be carrying out public engagement work on the strategy over the summer, prior to a formal consultation in autumn.

Success for £15,000 bid for speech therapy service:

NHS Wiltshire is to receive £15,000 from the Department Health for a new, single speech therapy service for children and young people. The grant is a Transforming Community Services Innovation Award.

The new service is intended to reduce health inequalities by promoting access to speech and language therapies for families in need, and follows a review, jointly with Wiltshire Council, of services for children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). The money from the award will partly fund a new post for a project manager, working with both NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council.

Refurbishment of Cameron Ward, Chippenham Hospital:

The second phase of redevelopment of Chippenham Community Hospital is soon to go ahead, following approval by NHS Wiltshire's Board of a £520,000 upgrade to Cameron Ward, the general medical ward at Chippenham Hospital. The work will refurbish Cameron Ward to provide 17 beds in 1,2,3 and 4-bedded bays, all en suite and providing privacy and extra space for patients. All the accommodation will be single-sex, complying with Department of Health guidance. It will meet the latest infection control requirements. A day room and dining facilities will also be provided.

The first phase of the hospital's redevelopment (birthing centre) was completed in January 2009.

Update on new dental activity:

New data shows that NHS Wiltshire continues to fulfil its promise to increase NHS dental services by 10% year on year. The Dental Commissioning statistics for the three-month period ending March 2009 show that during 2008/9, activity increased from 473,565 episodes of care to 519,562 episodes – an increase of 9.7%. Year two of the programme, 2009/10, will see an even greater increase as the £3.1 million additional investment announced in March 2009 begins to take effect.

The additional funding takes the form of new dentistry contracts in five Wiltshire towns and extensions to contracts in eight others across the county through a structured investment programme linked to an agreed dental commissioning plan. New dental practices are under negotiation in Amesbury, Malmesbury, Tidworth, Warminster and Westbury. Existing dentists in Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Marlborough, Melksham, Pewsey, Trowbridge and Wootton Bassett are to provide extra NHS provision under the new investment. Areas of deprivation as well as those areas where there is a known shortfall in NHS provision and accessibility have been targeted and contracts for the majority of the additional activity were awarded last month. Where new practices are involved, additional activity will have started by the end of July 2009.

Long-term neurological conditions: stakeholder event success:

An event giving opportunity for open discussion with people living with a neurological condition, their carers, and health and social care providers, was held in Wiltshire last month. The stakeholder event, which saw representatives from NHS commissioners, providers, patients and carers getting together in Bromham on 15 May 2009, aimed to provide a platform to explore the services currently available and how they can best be used, as well providing an opportunity for health care providers to hear directly from people living with conditions including motor neurone disease, muscular dystrophy and stroke.

Joint commissioning for adults and older people:

NHS Wiltshire and Wiltshire Council have agreed to set up a new joint commissioning board for services for adults and older people, as part of a journey towards more joint commissioning. The new arrangements will include considerable involvement of service users.

NHS Wiltshire funds new centre in Devizes to support men's sexual health:

A new drop-in centre providing services which inform men of all ages about good sexual health, general health and well-being opened in Devizes on Monday 18 May. NHS Wiltshire has helped to fund the centre, which will provide free and confidential information and advice about drugs and alcohol, testicular cancer, prostate cancer, HIV and AIDS as well as other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and other areas of general health. Counselling, support and guidance will be available as well as face to face meetings and advocacy.

New health ministerial team:

The Government has announced Andy Burnham has become Secretary of State for Health as Alan Johnson moves to become Home Secretary. Andy Burnham joins the department from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, where he was Secretary of State. He was previously Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and prior to that was Minister of State for Delivery and Quality at the Department of Health.

The Department of Health ministerial team also includes:

- Mike O'Brien – Minister of State for Health Services
- Gillian Merron MP – Minister of State for Public Health
- Phil Hope MP – Minister of State for Care Services
- Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham KBE – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
- Ann Keen MP – Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health Services

NHS Wiltshire Board Meetings:

The next Board meeting will be held on **Wednesday 22 July 2009, venue to be confirmed**. Papers are published a week before the meeting on www.wiltshirepct.nhs.uk or on request from Maggie Goodman, NHS Wiltshire (tel: 01380 733827, email: maggie.goodman@wiltshire.nhs.uk)

For further information or copies of documents referred to above, please contact your lead Community Engagement Manager:

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