

NHS Update – October 2010

Transforming Community Services (TCS)

The revised NHS Operating Framework for 2010/11, released by the Health Secretary Andrew Lansley in June 2010, makes it clear that all Primary Care Trusts in England must make it a priority to separate themselves completely from providing actual services and that a complete split has to be achieved by April 2011.

This means that NHS Wiltshire must organise a transfer of community services provided by Wiltshire Community Health Services (WCHS) to other organisations, such as hospital Trusts, other NHS providers (such as GPs) or to Wiltshire Council, with the capability of securing on-going employment for front-line staff on NHS pay and conditions.

NHS Wiltshire is currently in discussions with each of the potential bidders who will submit their proposals by 15 October. The proposal will be short listed by the 28 October with bidders being invited for interview. The Board and Commissioning Committee will make a decision about the preferred provider by 9 November, this will ensure that WCHS staff can be notified formally about their new employer by January 2011 and will allow for a smooth transfer by 1 April 2011 to fulfill government requirements.

Wiltshire performs well in cancer stats

More people than ever are surviving longer than a year after being diagnosed with cancer, and Wiltshire patients fare better than the national average, figures just released from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) show. In England, the number of people surviving for at least a year after diagnosis increased during the period between 1996 and 2006 from 61.8% to 65%. In Wiltshire the one-year survival rate went up from 64% in 1996 to 65.8% ten years later.

NHS Wiltshire's blueprint for improving cancer survival is its Wiltshire Cancer Reform Strategy, approved by the Board in October 2008. One of the key aspects of the strategy is encouraging and supporting people to make lifestyle changes (stopping smoking, sensible drinking and keeping an eye on your weight) that can help prevent many forms of cancer. Cervical, breast and bowel cancer screening offer a better opportunity for early diagnosis and successful treatment.

In 2008, the year when the strategy was introduced, NHS Wiltshire invested an extra £1.1million on early detection and screening services, bringing its total cancer spend to £6.7million for the year. The Cancer Survival Index for Primary Care Trusts covers all cancers, and has been designed to monitor the effectiveness of cancer services in PCT areas. It is adjusted for differences

between PCTs in the profile of their resident cancer patients by age, sex and type of cancer.

Chippenham celebrates new NHS dental practice

A new dental practice in Chippenham offering NHS treatment to around 12,000 patients opened officially on 24 September 2010. Guest of honour Duncan Hames, MP for Chippenham 'cut the ribbon' at the Hathaway Dental Practice. He was joined by children from nearby New Road Nursery, who last year won the prestigious Gold Award from NHS Wiltshire's Happy Little Teeth programme. Happy Little Teeth works with children aged 0-5, their families and carers, to promote healthy teeth and stop children being scared of the dentist's chair.

The Hathaway Practice, which started seeing patients in spring 2010, is the flagship of a three-year, £3million+ investment in NHS dentistry in Wiltshire. Run by established dental providers Dr Michael Frain Ltd., the practice has state-of-the-art accommodation for 5 dentists, 2 hygienists and an oral health promoter. It currently has 5,500 NHS patients on its books, with capacity for at least another 6,500 over the coming two years.

Overnight stays for partners to continue at PAW

A pilot scheme offering partners an overnight stay after the birth of their baby at the Princess Anne Wing (PAW) of the Royal United Hospital in Bath has been so successful that Wiltshire Maternity Services have decided to run it indefinitely.

The Annual General Meeting and Board meeting of NHS Wiltshire will be held on Wednesday 17 November at 10am - **2010 at Southgate House**. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Papers are published a week before the meeting on www.wiltshire.nhs.uk or on request from Stacey Saunders, NHS Wiltshire (tel: 01380 733839, email: stacey.saunders@wiltshire.nhs.uk). For further information or copies of documents referred to above, please contact Jo Howes, Community Engagement Manager, 01380 733929 or jo.howes@wiltshire.nhs