

NHS Update – February 2011

Health and Social Care Bill sets out way forward for the NHS

Plans to put patients at the heart of the NHS have been set out in the Health and Social Care Bill 2011, published by the Government in January.

The proposed changes are intended to deliver better care, more choice and improved outcomes for patients, as well as long term financial savings for the NHS.

The Bill includes proposals to:

- Bring commissioning closer to patients by giving responsibility to GP-led groups
- Increase accountability for patients and the public by establishing HealthWatch and local wellbeing boards within local councils
- Enable all trusts to become foundation trusts and establish independent regulation of them
- Improve public health by creating Public Health England
- Reduce bureaucracy by streamlining arm's-length bodies

The changes should save more than £5 billion by 2014/15, and £1.7 billion a year after that, by changing the way the NHS delivers care, abolishing Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts, and removing some 24,500 management posts.

For more information see: www.dh.gov.uk/healthandsocialcarebill

Five 'consortia' groups of Wiltshire GPs have made a successful application for 'Pathfinder' status.

As a big step towards delivering the plans set out in the Government's NHS White Paper Liberating the NHS: Equity and Excellence, the Pathfinder groups will test the new commissioning arrangements to ensure they are working well before more formal arrangements come into place. GPs will work with colleagues at NHS Wiltshire in shadow form to manage the budget for Wiltshire patients, purchasing services for patients direct with other NHS colleagues and local authorities. The Pathfinder status allows GPs to test out the new arrangements at an early stage before GP consortia take on statutory responsibilities from April 2013

New health facilities planned for Salisbury

Proposals for three new healthcare developments for Salisbury were unveiled at the last Salisbury Area Board. Representatives from NHS Wiltshire and three GP practices briefed local politicians and decision-makers on proposals, approved in outline by NHS Wiltshire late last year, for:

- New premises for the existing Castle Street practice on NHS owned land and for a new state-of-the-art GP practice on the site of Salisbury's Old Manor Hospital.

- Also on Wilton Road, refurbishment of the Groveley Unit, by NHS Wiltshire to accommodate services currently housed at the Central Clinic and at Salisbury Hospital.
- New Street Surgery's branch surgery at Bishopdown will not be affected by the changes and will continue to exist on its current site.
- Wiltshire to accommodate services currently housed at the Central Health Clinic and at Salisbury Hospital.

The new building on the site of the Old Manor Hospital will be paid for and developed by the GP practices, and designed to provide accessible, modern facilities for patients. For patients, the new developments will mean more comfortable, accessible premises, and access to the same doctors and other staff as before. In the case of Castle Street, the new premises will still be occupied by the same, single practice – and only a couple of minutes walk away from the existing surgery.

Patients of New Street and Grove House will find the new premises on the Old Manor site a welcome upgrade from the existing surgeries – fully accessible for patients with disabilities, with better car parking and access by bus. Otherwise, however, they will experience the same, personal service from the two practices.

You're Welcome at St Laurence School

St Laurence School in Bradford on Avon has celebrated achieving "You're Welcome" status and is the first school in Wiltshire to do so.

You're Welcome is a robust national audit supported by the NHS to ensure that the health services provided for young people are friendly, relevant, confidential and totally supportive.

St Laurence School, together with its extended services staff, are dedicated to supporting their students' health and wellbeing, enabling them to access help to support their emotional and mental well being, their relationships and sexual health as well as drug and alcohol issues when needed. Staff work closely with partners and are able to signpost to additional specialist support when required.

To achieve the You're Welcome award the school had to demonstrate how the staff have engaged with young people to help develop, monitor and evaluate the services offered. St Laurence has embraced this challenge, constantly consulting the pupils and proactively seeking their involvement to make decisions about aspects of the service, such as where the multi agency drop-in should be located and what sort of venue it should be.

The next Board meeting of NHS Wiltshire will be held on **Wednesday 16 March at 10am - 2011 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