

How GWH fits in with commissioned services and healthcare provided by the CCG

Our services

The Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides acute hospital services (at the Great Western Hospital) and community health and maternity services across Wiltshire and parts of Bath and North East Somerset.

These services include community hospitals, community nursing, therapists, children's and young people's services along with hospital based maternity services from the Princess Anne Wing at the Royal United Hospital in Bath. The Trust delivers over 9,000 babies each year across the two maternity units and the six birth centres we are responsible for.

At the Great Western Hospital we have all of the facilities expected at a busy general hospital including an Emergency Department, Delivery Suite, a full range of diagnostics tests such as X-ray, MRI and CT scans, outpatient clinics and inpatient wards.

In 2011, following a competitive tender process, the Trust was chosen by the former Wiltshire Primary Care Trust as the provider for the whole range of community health and maternity services it was previously responsible, for including the majority of the services provided at Savernake Hospital including a range of outpatient clinics – specifically:

Audiology
Paediatrics
Dermatology
Dietetics
Gastroenterology
General Surgery
Gynaecology
Podiatry
Ophthalmology
Orthopaedics
Rheumatology
Urology

Earlier this year, following the abolition of PCTs, ownership of the Savernake building (under the Private Finance Initiative) was transferred to the Great Western Hospitals NHS FT.

The community and maternity services in the county are provided on a contract of three to four years and, with the increasing role of competition in the NHS, other providers including private providers will be able to bid to run these services when the contract expires. The Trust is currently going through a re-tendering process to retain maternity services with a decision due in the New Year.

Across a population of circa 700,000 we have 1.5million patient contacts each year. Approximately a third of the patients we see at the Great Western Hospital in Swindon requiring some form of acute hospital treatment come from Wiltshire whilst the majority of patient using our community health and maternity services are Wiltshire residents.

Recent developments

At the Great Western Hospital:

- A new Children's Emergency Department will open in December providing a much more suitable environment for children to be cared for. December will also see the

completion of the refurbishment of the existing 'adult' Emergency Department including more observation bays and additional staffing.

- Development of an Ambulatory Care Unit to improve the way we treat patients who may not require an overnight hospital stay but who do need some form of acute hospital treatment. This is reducing the numbers of patients being admitted to hospital and helping people stay well at home.
- This year we have invested £1.8m in additional Nursing and Midwifery staff to improve patient care which also sees additional staff in the local community.
- A new Midwife-led Birth Centre providing mums-to-be with more personalised care in a home from home setting
- A new Cardiac Catheter Laboratory (along with refurbishing the existing lab) which means we can treat people more quickly with the latest technology
- Redevelopment of the Wiltshire Breast Centre providing the latest equipment to improve the diagnosis of breast cancer and increase the number of women routinely screened for the disease

In the community in this area:

- Working with Wiltshire CCG and the local authority, in October the first of 23 Care Coordinators took up post in the county. Their role is to coordinate the care of those most at risk of ill health notably:
 - frail elderly
 - those with very complex health needs
 - people with Long Term Conditions such as high blood pressure, dementia and arthritis

Care Coordinators will identify those patients who may need more support to continue to live at home and will work with clusters of two-three GP practices, the primary care teams, Wiltshire Council and other care providers. The aim is to minimise the need for hospital admission – supporting people to live independently for as long as they can with appropriate support.

- The launch of a new mobile Chemotherapy Unit in partnership with a local charity Hope for Tomorrow onsite at Savernake one day a week and in Malmesbury one day a week. This allows patients with requiring less complex chemotherapy the opportunity to receive treatment closer to home.
- A £250,000 investment in the early supported discharge service which supports patients who have suffered a stroke

A major part of our strategic focus over the next few years is to develop more integrated services working with GPs, the council and other providers including the voluntary sector shifting more care closer to home, therefore the role community healthcare becomes ever more important.

Our people

We have approximately 5,500 staff who pride themselves in delivering care to patients and users. These staff work in hospital settings both at GWH and in community hospitals like Savernake and in schools, prison and people's homes.

Last year we were rated as one of the top three Trusts in the South West to work for and therefore ensuring we work to maintain staff morale is a priority for us because of the difference that makes to patient care.

Our members

As a Foundation Trust we are a membership organisation, accountable to local people

through our Council of Governors – these are elected and appointed positions open to local people. We have over 12,000 members which include staff, patients and the public and you are welcome to join us to help influence how we do things as a healthcare provider. For more information can be accessed here: <http://www.gwh.nhs.uk/members>

Our relationship with Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Wiltshire CCG is one of our two main commissioners of our services, our other key commissioner being Swindon CCG.

Each year we discuss and agree a contract and budget for the services Wiltshire CCG wants us to provide on behalf of Wiltshire residents. Decisions about what services are paid for are made by the CCG which is made up primarily of local GPs.

In turn the commissioning of GP services is done by the Local Area Team of NHS England following the major restructure of the NHS last year.

Wiltshire CCG is solely a commissioner of services and does not actually provide any healthcare services itself.

Where we provide services in Wiltshire

