

Health and Wellbeing Board

21st June 2013

**Providing safe and high quality care
leading up to the opening of a new hospital**



Report of Stewart Findlay, Chief Clinical Officer, Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group and Alan Foster, Chief Executive, North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the consultation which is taking place in relation to providing safe and high quality care leading up to the opening of a new hospital in the North Tees area.

Background

2. In 2008, the then Hartlepool Primary Care Trust and North Tees Primary Care Trust and North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust began the *momentum: pathways to healthcare* programme.
3. The momentum: pathways to healthcare programme has 3 objectives:
 - changing and transforming the way the local health service works to provide better, safer care for patients
 - providing a network of community and town centre facilities
 - building a new hospital to replace the University Hospital of Hartlepool and the University Hospital of North Tees
4. The government offered public funding for the new hospital in March 2010, however, withdrew this funding in June 2010 and therefore new funding sources needed to be identified. This means that, instead of the new hospital being open in 2014 as planned, it is now expected to open in 2017.

Safety

5. Concerns were raised by doctors at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust that services cannot continue to be provided safely until the new hospital opens in 2017, while meeting rising standards in care.
6. In response, Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group and Durham, Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group invited the National Clinical Advisory Team to provide independent advice on

reconfiguring services to ensure safe, effective and accessible services for patients.

7. The following recommendations were identified in the Clinical Advisory Team's report:
 - work with the trust to centralise emergency medical services and critical care to the University Hospital of North Tees as soon as possible
 - explain to the public what this means for them
 - ask their views about the things that they are concerned about, especially how they and their relatives get to hospital

Consultation Proposals

8. The main consultation proposal is to:
 - Centralise emergency medical and critical care services at the University Hospital of North Tees from October 2013
9. This will mean that patients with lots of medical problems will not be able to have planned operations like hip replacements at the University Hospital of Hartlepool. However, more low risk operations and treatments for local people are expected to be carried out at the University of Hartlepool.
10. A 12 week consultation period began on 20th May and ends on 11th August.
11. The following questions are included within the consultation document:
 1. What do you think are the advantages and the difficulties (or disadvantages) of the proposed changes?
 2. If you still have concerns, what are you most concerned about and how could we help to reduce your concerns?
 3. What do you think are the main things we need to consider in putting the proposed changes in place?
 4. Is there anything else you think we need to think about?
12. The full 'Providing safe and high quality care leading up to the opening of the new hospital' consultation document is included at Appendix 2.

How it will work

13. Leading up to the proposed changes the following actions would be undertaken :

- open 120 beds at the University Hospital of North Tees to make sure there are enough beds and staff to look after patients from right across the area;
 - make extra space in critical care to look after critically ill patients;
 - gradually, close the beds in medicine and critical care at the University Hospital of Hartlepool and;
 - transfer a number of staff from support services such as pharmacy, radiology and pharmacy and estates who need to come to the University Hospital of North Tees to support the new arrangements.
14. A Joint Health Scrutiny Committee of Hartlepool Borough Council, Stockton Borough Council and Durham County Council will be established by the end of June 2013 to formally respond to the consultation. Terms of reference and membership are currently being agreed. A report on this will be considered by the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd July 2013.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:
- Accept the report for information
 - Accept further reports for information as the project progresses

Contacts: Stewart Findlay, Chief Clinical Officer, Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group
e-mail stewartfindlay.ddes@nhs.net

Alan Foster, Chief Executive, North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
e-mail alan.foster@nth.nhs.uk

Appendix 1 - Implications

Finance – There are no direct finance implications

Staffing – The proposal is to transfer a number of staff from the University Hospital of Hartlepool to the University Hospital of North Tees

Risk – The proposal intends to mitigate any existing risks to patient health.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – There are no implications to Equality and Diversity

Accommodation – The proposal is to transfer a number of services from University Hospital of Hartlepool to the University Hospital of North Tees and increase capacity at North Tees by 120 beds.

Crime and Disorder – There are no implications on crime and disorder.

Human Rights – There are no implications to human rights.

Consultation – A public consultation is taking place between 20th May and 11th August 2013.

Procurement – There are no procurement implications.

Disability Discrimination Act – There are potentially transport issues for disabled people that need to be considered.

Legal Implications – There are no direct legal implications.