

APPENDIX 1

Overview and Scrutiny Brief Re: Health Centre Development

Introduction

Our NHS Our Future, and the Darzi *Interim NHS Next Stage Review* (NSR) emphasised the need to develop care outside of hospitals and in particular has prioritised improvements in access to GP led primary care services.

The interim report of the NSR gave a commitment that the NHS will establish at least 150 GP led health centres, open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week. In addition to the new health centres, the NSR also gave a commitment that the NHS will establish at least 100 new GP practices in areas of greatest need.

North Tees PCT is required to develop 1 health centre, but will not be required to procure additional GP practices.

Process

The health centre procurement will take place over the coming year with contracts signed by December 2008. As part of this process, the PCT has been working since late December 2007 to develop the initial outline specifications and affordability models.

Initial needs assessment activities have been undertaken to ensure that the specification for the health centre is based on local need and is supportive of strategic developments. This has included gathering views and opinions from a number of stakeholders including Practice Based Commissioning groups, GP practices, feedback from prior consultations and a range of departments and individuals across both the PCT and local authority.

The next stage is for local consultation to take place to ensure that the health centre proposals are reflective of local need and for the specification to be developed in more detail.

Proposal

The health centre will have the following core characteristics, which have been set nationally:

- Will provide core GP services
- Will be open 8am – 8pm, 7 days a week
- Will provide 'bookable' GP appointments and walk in services
- Will provide services for both those patients who are registered at the health centre and also non-registered patients
- Will be GP-led

The proposal is for the new health centre to not only provide traditional GP practice services but also to have a focus on providing other services. These services may be commissioned separately or through integration/co-location with existing services or future developments as determined by Momentum – Pathways to Healthcare.

The identification of a preferred location for the North Tees Health Centre has considered the following factors:

- Consistency with current /future service strategies
- Use of previous public feedback to inform draft proposals, including the outcome of access surveys
- Locations within areas of greatest need as defined by health inequality, current availability of services

Locations that have been considered include Hardwick Ward, Thornaby and Barwick Ward and central Stockton. Based on the above factors the preferred location for the new health centre is the Hardwick ward and the preferred site is Tithebarn House.

The Hardwick ward is an area of high deprivation with poor health outcomes; the population of this ward also use urgent care services at a markedly higher rate than other wards in the PCT area. This ward has been identified as the preferred location for the following reasons:

- The area has an Accident and Emergency attendance rate of 485 per 1,000 population compared to a rate of 272 per 1,000 population for North Tees. This supports the need for a service providing urgent care.
- The area has very high rates of attendance at GP Out of hours services (a rate of 238 per 1,000 population compared to a rate of 142 per 1,000 population for North Tees)
- Deprivation scores put this ward in the top 10% of most deprived wards nationally
- This ward also experiences high rates of diabetes, cancer, stroke and Coronary Heart Disease
- There is also a perception that once the University Hospital of North Tees has been relocated, there will be additional need for services in this area.

Within the Hardwick Ward, Tithebarn House has been identified as the preferred site for the new Health Centre. The Tithebarn location is preferred for the following reasons:

- Suitable premises available within the required timescales
- Suitable well located and easily accessible
- Close proximity to community pharmacies
- Close proximity to A&E Department (supporting the focus on delivering urgent care services)
- Services currently located at this site that could be incorporated into the new health centre.

The Tithebarn House site is the location of an existing GP practice; the proposal would be for the services provided by this GP practice to become part of the services that will be delivered by the new health centre.

It is hoped that the new health centre development will not only improve access to primary care services but will also provide the mechanism to make a significant impact on the inequalities in health experienced by the local

population. It is envisaged that the health centre will lead to improved health outcomes, improved patient experience and provide a hub for the provision of more integrated community based services.

Consultation

A consultation plan is being drawn up and will be shared with the committee shortly.

It is proposed that a 13-week consultation will be undertaken commencing 5 May 2008 until 1 August 2008.

The consultation will focus on possible additional services to be provided in new Health Centre and the criteria for the selection of providers.

The consultation literature will explain, the background to the scheme, the number of health centres and GP practices in the locality, timescales, proposals and rationale for location selection along with details of the services that are to be commissioned and consultation questions.

The consultation will include the following groups:

Local Authorities/Health overview and scrutiny committees
Local Healthcare Providers/Organisations
Local Representative Committees
Patients, Carers and Community
Staff

Action for Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny are asked to consider the content of this briefing and highlight any additional issues that they feel may need addressing during the consultation and how they wish to be involved.