

**Billingham Headway Limited
c/o 254 Marsh House Avenue,
Billingham, TS23 3EL**

Overview and Scrutiny Briefing Billingham Headway Development

Introduction

Six GP Practices in Billingham have agreed to come together to develop a new facility out of which modern primary care services can be delivered to the local population into the future. Billingham Headway Limited has been formed by eight Billingham GPs to take forward this project on behalf of the sixteen GPs who will, it is intended, benefit from collocation in a new, purpose-built building designed to meet the needs of primary care provision in the 21st century.

Current Position

Currently there are seven practices located in Billingham which provide primary healthcare services to the population of Billingham and the surrounding area including Wolviston Village, Wynyard Village and The Clarences, totalling approximately 36,000 patients. Practices from Norton and Stockton also have patients in Billingham. There are a further two new housing developments in the Billingham area which will provide an additional 400 homes, and the Wynyard development is ongoing.

The proposed development will bring together onto one site, six out of the seven general practices in Billingham. All Billingham based practices were invited to join the venture, with all but Kingsway Medical Practice opting in – this Practice has relatively new and recently refurbished premises.

The six Practices proposing to come together are Dr Entwistle & Hazarika, Dr Rasool, Dr Choudhury and Dr Geoghegan & Partners from Queensway Medical Centre, plus Marsh House Medical Centre and Melrose Avenue Surgery. The proposed new site is less than one kilometre from all of the existing surgeries.

Four of the six practices which it is proposed to relocate to the new facility are currently located in a flat roofed 1970s health centre building. The others are in a detached residential house and a semi-detached residential house. The premises are outdated and impractical, they are too small and their layouts are not conducive to efficient working or access requirements. They are not fit for purpose and the inability to expand limits the services which can be provided now and which would be able to be offered in the future.

Many of the practices teach medical students and / or train GP registrars and other members of the multidisciplinary health care team, although their ability to do so is currently constrained by space limitations.

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Billingham Headway Limited believe that developing a new facility is the only option that is able to meet the current and future needs and expectations of Billingham patients and the wider local community. Furthermore, as GPs, the members feel that their patients deserve the best possible health care in modern premises.

Proposal

The proposal is to bring together six GP Practices into one centrally-located, purpose-built facility which would include a wide range of healthcare services and professions, to support the provision of modern primary care services. This would encourage closer and more effective ways of working, develop user-friendly, convenient, modern facilities and minimise duplication.

The key aims and objectives of this project are to:

- Support the improvement of the health of the people in the Billingham area
- Provide cost effective, high quality, modern, purpose built premises for the benefit of patients and staff
- Provide opportunities for the co-location of health care, social care and related services
- Extend the range of primary health care services and other public services available closer to the Billingham community
- Improve accessibility, choice and flexibility, and contribute to the modernisation of service provision
- Support communities and individuals to take an active role in promoting improvements in their own health and well-being
- Contribute to community regeneration by developing a building to enhance Billingham town centre
- Improve care of patients by actively training staff and students
- Improve staff well being by providing a healthy and safe environment

The proposed premises would be situated near the town centre, at the rear of the old Billingham Technical College, and will provide state of the art accommodation for the provision of general practice. It will provide an opportunity for the development of new services and new models of care, and could also provide accommodation for the provision of PCT services and third party providers of healthcare-related services.

The proposed development will be conveniently located for bus routes, will be easily accessed by foot and cycle and the site will provide ample car parking. It is very near to Billingham Town Centre, which will allow patients the flexibility to fit their healthcare needs around their everyday life and commitments.

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The facility would also offer opportunities for GPs and other clinical / healthcare professionals to develop a wide range of new community services, and teaching opportunities. The development will also include a retail pharmacy outlet.

Consultation

A communication and consultation plan has been drawn up and is appended to this Briefing. A formal thirteen week consultation will take place from 20 December 2008 to 21 March 2009.

Consultation will focus on the services to be provided at the new facility, including additional / enhanced services, and preferred opening hours. Views around layout and shared facilities, plus any further issues which need to be considered in relocating to the new site will also be sought.

Information will be available to explain the background to the scheme and the vision for the development.

The consultation will include the following groups:

- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Local Involvement Network (LINK)
- Local stakeholder and residents' groups
- Patients, Carers and Community
- Voluntary / community groups
- 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.