

## **Overview and Scrutiny Briefing Yarm Medical Practice July 2010**

### **Introduction**

Yarm Medical Practice is proposing to develop a new health centre on the existing site, adjacent to their current building. The development is due to commence January 2011 and to be completed in January 2012 to allow for re-provision of like- for- like services for the practice population. During this time, General Practice and Community Services will continue to be provided from the current building which will not be demolished until the new health centre development is complete.

### **Current Position**

Yarm Medical Practice was established in 1984, and has 6.2 whole time equivalent GPs (7 partners) and operates from a surgery at Yarm Medical Centre, approximately 300 metres from Yarm High Street, based at Worsall Road. The practice employs a full range of professional and ancillary staff including four practice nurses, two nurse practitioners, two phlebotomists/ Health Care Assistants, reception and administrative staff including a full-time practice manager and has a full range of attached community staff. There are also attached counsellors, a cognitive behaviour therapist, Gateway worker and two physiotherapists.

We believe that patients have the right to expect that their local health centre is fit for purpose. This means that the practice needs enough space to provide modern GP and enhanced services in an accessible building. We feel that the current centre does not meet those standards due to lack of space including restricted clinical, training and future expansion accommodation, and a lack of staff accommodation.

In addition, the current building does not comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and car parking provision is also inadequate with the current layout.

### **Proposal**

It is proposed that the existing medical centre will be rebuilt on the site of the current PCT clinic building which is currently vacant.

The new medical centre would have a total gross internal floor area of approximately 1,200m<sup>2</sup> with 850m<sup>2</sup> for GMS services and 60m<sup>2</sup> for Primary Care services. We would hope to include a pharmacy of 120m<sup>2</sup>.

We also hope to include a significant amount of expansion space within the new building for future developments.

The additional benefit of a scheme such as this would be that the new accommodation could be built before the old accommodation is demolished thus preventing the need for any temporary accommodation. All current GP and Community Services will continue to be provided from the existing Yarm Medical Centre building until the new health centre is complete. Services will then be transferred into the new building.

Double decked car parking would be provided by demolishing the present medical centre and building on that site. This would provide 66 car parking spaces as opposed to the current 39.

The *Momentum: pathways to healthcare* (June 2008- September 2008) consultation about providing health services near to home where possible, centralised where necessary asked people whether this new facility at Yarm should include additional space for a greater range of community based services. We are therefore keen to ensure continuity in planning and engagement activity with regard to Yarm Medical Centre and Momentum. We will be working with NHS Hartlepool, NHS Stockton- on Tees and North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust to determine any additional service provision and ensure that plans are integrated into the overall Momentum programme which includes the development of a single site hospital for Hartlepool and Stockton.

In addition, any members of the public living in the Yarm area who responded to the Momentum consultation and provided contact details will be contacted as part of any engagement activity for Yarm Medical Centre.

### **Engagement Activity**

To ensure that patients are fully informed of developments are given an opportunity to comment and make suggestions on proposals a communication and engagement plan has been developed (see appendix A).

Planned activity will last for 8 weeks from 23 July 2010 until 17<sup>th</sup> September and will build upon the formal consultation undertaken in 2008 as part of *Momentum: pathways to healthcare*. Activity will include correspondence to registered patients, local councillors and MP along with awareness raising with staff and PR and Media activity leading up to the opening of the new centre. The Practice also plan to hold a drop in session on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010 to provide patients and stakeholders with an opportunity to see plans for the new building and raise any issues or queries about the development.

Patients and local residents will also be made aware that the Medical Centre plans will continue to be available to view in the reception area of the practice after the drop-in session, along with a box for comments.

In addition, we have invited patients and the public to send their thoughts and comments to us by contacting Tara Rose, Practice Manager.

Continuing engagement with patients and the public will support this initial awareness raising and engagement:

- Feedback and updates on the progress of the project will be provided within the surgery, via newsletter as well as through local media.
- We will provide opportunities for patients and the public to continue to comment and participate in re-provision and beyond.
- We plan to establish a Patient Group which will support in obtaining patient views throughout the development of the new build and into the future

### **Action for Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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 engagement activity and how they wish to be involved.

### **Appendices:**

**Appendix A: Yarm Medical Practice Communication & Engagement Plan  
July 2010**