
Dilke and Lydney Team Briefing

September 2004

To: All West Gloucestershire PCT staff

From: Director of Clinical Development, Jan Marriott

*Note to Managers: Please communicate this information to your staff within **48 hours**. Please use staff meetings, forwarded email, noticeboards and any other methods available.*

PCT website: www.westglospct.org.uk

Dear Colleague,

This monthly Team Briefing is designed to bring you up to date with the Community Hospitals Review and make sure that all staff and stakeholders have access to factual and timely information on any developments. This Team Brief is just one way in which we aim to keep staff and stakeholders informed over the next few months.

We also intend to introduce a number of measures over the coming weeks to ensure that we are able to receive any questions, queries or concerns (e.g. via dedicated e-mail/postal addresses and staff suggestion boxes at both hospitals), which we will promote when established.

We will keep you regularly informed via the PCT magazine Look West and we will ensure that this monthly Team Brief also includes an updated question and answer sheet, which will allow us to share responses to questions we receive.

We are committed to open and transparent communication throughout the review and hope that you will help us in achieving this goal. We have introduced the Question and Answer element of this briefing in particular to make sure that the 'rumour mill' does not become the central element of communication. As mentioned over the coming weeks we will be putting in place a number of other communication measures, but in the meantime if you have any questions or concerns that you would like answers to please do not hesitate in dropping us a line either in person or anonymously.

Overview

In a recent statement, the PCT made it clear that both community hospitals had a 'vibrant and healthy' future at the heart of their local communities and expansion and development of their services for the benefit of staff and patients was the top priority.

The continued existence of services provided by both of our Community Hospitals is recognised as crucial to meeting the health needs of the local population in the Forest of Dean.

Our Community Hospitals will continue to have a major role in providing important and highly valued services such as out-patient clinics, minor injuries units and diagnostic facilities. The PCT's intention is to look at ways of expanding the range of services provided.

Dilke Memorial Hospital

We are currently looking a number of options for the development of community hospital services in the Cinderford area, which need to take into account some important issues.

These include the re-development of the current hospital, transport, financial costs associated with the replacement and repair work that needs to be carried out (cost estimated at £1.3 million) and the current quality of PCT premises in the town.

The Dilke Review Project Board and Project Team is currently helping to develop the 'Project Initiation Document (PID)', which will go to the PCT Board in October.

This document will mark the very beginning of the review. It will **NOT** make recommendations about future services or the options it will simply set out the **broad** parameters of the review (e.g. what is in and what is not).

The PID will set out what we know already, that the Project Board and Project Team will look at the following options: retaining the hospital as it is or re-providing the hospital to improve patient access to both community hospital services and services provided by GPs and nursing teams.

The work on developing options is at a very early stage and will involve a lot of careful research and fact-finding. When this research and fact-finding is done, we will know more about the 'pros and cons' of the options above.

As outlined above, this review will be 'open and 'transparent'. Staff, stakeholders and the public will be fully involved in considering any options at the planning stage before decisions are made. There will also be a comprehensive consultation process in the New Year, which will respect the views of staff, stakeholders and the public.

Lydney and District Hospital

Lydney and District Hospital is well located within the town of Lydney and has benefited from significant investment over the years. A recent estates (building) appraisal identified no significant problems.

The PCT wants to make sure that the health services provided by Lydney Hospital continue to develop and the PCT wants to work with its community partners to look at, for example, investing in out-patient accommodation so that more people can access services more locally.

As explained above, the 'Project Initiation Document' (PID), which will go to the PCT Board in October, will set out this broad option.

Questions and Answers

Dilke Memorial Hospital

Are you closing Dilke Memorial Hospital?

No. Both community hospitals have a 'vibrant and healthy' future at the heart of their local communities and expansion and development of their services for the benefit of staff and patients is the top priority.

The continued existence of services provided by both Community Hospitals is recognised as crucial to meeting the health needs of the local population in the Forest of Dean.

Are you moving the Dilke Memorial Hospital next to the Industrial Estate?

We are a very early stage of the review and re-provision of the hospital is just one option as is retaining the hospital as it is. No activity has taken place, which involves looking at options for re-providing the hospital (including locations).

Will you be taking transport issues into account when undertaking the option appraisal for both hospitals?

Yes, local transport issues are well documented and will need to be considered carefully.

Why are you changing anything?

Primary Care services in Cinderford are in need of substantial investment in order for them to meet the growing needs of the local population.

The Health Centre in the town is also in need of substantial investment and modernisation and we need to make sure that we do not plan services in isolation. For example, there are substantial benefits for patients in primary and community services working more seamlessly together in the delivery of care particularly for older people.

In addition, following a recent estates appraisal we know that current repair and replacement works at Dilke Memorial Hospital would cost in the region of £1.3 million to put right. We cannot ignore this regardless of which option is decided upon.

However, we do not know yet, whether we will be 'changing anything' that is why we are having a review and option appraisal.

In terms of Lydney, there is a new housing development planned, which would necessitate a review of capacity at Lydney and District Hospital and local PCT services to make sure we can meet demand.

What are the Options?

See Team Brief above.

What services are being withdrawn?

We will be planning to deliver more local services in the future not reduce them.

Are you amalgamating the hospitals?

No, this is not part of the option appraisal. As set out in the PCT's statement, the continued existence of both Community Hospitals is recognised as crucial.

How will you respect the heritage of the hospitals?

In the event that major works are undertaken consideration will be given to the heritage of the Dilke Memorial Hospital and the history behind the establishment of Lydney and District Hospital at every stage and close liaison with the local community would occur.

What about Car Parking?

The Dilke Memorial Hospital and Lydney and District Hospital have suffered from increasing pressures on parking availability. Ensuring a comprehensive transport and accessibility assessment is completed will be integral to all planning.

Will there be any redundancies?

There are no plans for any redundancies. This review is about developing and expanding services not reducing them.

Is the work related to Lydney (Dilke question)?

The Project Initiation Document (PID) is looking at broad options for both hospitals separately. Whilst it makes sense to ensure that patients in the Forest of Dean have access to the best possible range of community health services the options will be different according to local circumstances.

What are the timescales?

The Project Initiation Document (PID) will go to the PCT Board in October. The background research and fact-finding associated with the options will then begin. It is hoped that the Project Boards will be in a position to report back in the New Year. Staff, patients and the public will then be fully involved in determining final options.

Will we be consulted/can I express my opinion?

Absolutely. The PCT plans to involve staff, stakeholders and the public in determining the future options. It is committed to a comprehensive consultation process.

Will the name change (Dilke question)?

Regardless of the future decision it is expected that the name of the Dilke Memorial Hospital will remain.

Will I still have to travel to Gloucester (Dilke question)?

The purpose of this review is to develop more local access to services. Some services will always need to be provided in the larger District General Hospitals, but local access is looked into at every opportunity.

-END-