
Dilke and Lydney Briefing

December 2004

To: All West Gloucestershire PCT staff and local stakeholders

From: Director of Operations, Will Noble

*Note to PCT 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 Q/A Team Briefing is designed to bring you up to date with the Cinderford and Lydney Option Appraisals (two projects looking at the current and future needs for health services in these areas) ensuring that all staff and stakeholders have access to factual and timely information on any developments. This Briefing is just one way in which we aim to keep staff and stakeholders informed over the next few months.

We are committed to open and transparent communication throughout the review and hope that you will help us in achieving this goal. We have produced this briefing in Q/A form to respond to any questions that staff or stakeholders may have. At the end of this briefing you can find out how to send in your questions.

Previous briefings (the last one was published in September 2004) can be found on our website at www.westglospct.org.uk (News Section).

Questions and Answers

What is happening to the Project Initiation Documents and have they been agreed?

The Community Hospitals Strategy is due to be considered at the PCT Public Board meeting in January. If approved, the Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) will then be signed off.

The PIDs mark the beginning of the review. They will **NOT** make recommendations about future services or the options they will simply set out the **broad** parameters of the appraisals (e.g. what is in and what is not).

The Cinderford 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 (either on its current site or from another site).

In looking at issues to do with Dilke Memorial Hospital, the wider aspects of the need for Primary and Community Health services in the Cinderford and surrounding area will be considered.

The Lydney PID will set out broad options to make sure that health services provided by Lydney and District Hospital continue to develop. The PCT will work with its community partners to look at, for example, the further development of out-patient facilities so that more people can access services more locally.

What is the Community Hospitals Strategy?

The Community Hospitals Strategy marks the culmination of work with staff and stakeholders and sets out how both community hospitals will continue to play an important part in the provision of health services to the local population.

The Strategy will recognise that there is a need to retain the services of both hospitals, whilst acknowledging that further work needs to be carried out in order to release their true potential and fully benefit the local population and growing health care needs.

It will emphasise the requirement for developing a system of care for patients, which includes general practitioners (GPs) and community nurses working alongside each other and other healthcare and social work staff, from modern clean premises, in order to provide a wide range of services locally and in patients' own homes. Developments in medicines, skills and technology mean that many more services can be provided outside the larger acute hospitals than before.

The Strategy will explain that Dilke Memorial Hospital requires substantial investment in upgrading services and refurbishment with re-development of the hospital an option. It recognises that Primary Care services in the local area are also in need of substantial investment in order for them to meet the growing needs of the local population.

The Community Hospitals Strategy will highlight the need to make sure that services are not planned 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 terms of Lydney, there is a new housing development planned and the Strategy will recommend a review of capacity at Lydney and District Hospital and local PCT services to make sure that demand can be met.

The Strategy will be available on the PCT website when approved.

What option appraisal work has been done to date and how far has this got?

There has only been initial discussion on services to date as the Community Hospital Strategy Group and the local Project Teams and Boards do not have the authority to take forward the work on developing options until the Project Initiation Documents are signed off in the New Year.

However, because of the length of time the review will take to complete, operational decisions to ensure that patients continue to receive the best possible care, treatment and access to services will still need to be made in the interim. For example, continued maintenance of hospital buildings will need to continue.

Why have the timescales slipped?

As part of its Strategic Services Development Plan, the PCT has needed more time to consider its estates priorities for 2005/06. The Trust has developed a criteria to ensure that they can prioritise major service developments such as building projects fairly. It has decided that the Cinderford and Lydney Option Appraisals are agreed priorities for the coming year.

What opportunity will the local community have to influence the decision-making process and what form will the public consultation take?

The PCT wants to work closely with staff and local stakeholders in developing proposals for the future of community hospital services.

The Trust is currently organising a third Stakeholder Event to be held in March. The event will be used to provide feedback on the option appraisals and to involve community representatives in developing the options in more detail. The event will also be used to discuss what form the public consultation should take to ensure it is recognised as open and transparent.

How can I have my questions answered?

There are a variety of ways in which you can do this:

E-mail: wgcommunityhospitalsreview@glos.nhs.uk

Write to:

South Forest Patch Team, Grove House, Grove Road, Lydney

Or

North Forest Patch Team, West Glos PCT, The Annexe, High Street, Coleford.

Question Drop:

Use the question boxes at Dilke Memorial Hospital or Lydney and District Hospital.

All questions can be responded to in person or can be published in the next question and answer briefing.

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