

TO: West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust Board

FROM: Will Noble, Interim Director of Operations and Jan Marriott, Director of Clinical Development

DATE: 20th January 2005

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY HOSPITALS STRATEGY

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This strategy has been prepared to facilitate planning for the future provision of health services in the Forest of Dean in relation to the Community Hospitals and meeting the primary and community healthcare needs of the Forest population.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This strategy is part of the overall strategy for the provision of primary care and community services in West Gloucestershire. It relates specifically to the services provided at the two community hospitals operated by the PCT in the Forest of Dean:- the Dilke Memorial Hospital (based at Cinderford) and Lydney & District Hospital. It forms part of the PCT vision to "develop health and social care services closer to where people can best use them" and is set within the national context of the NHS plan, National Standards and Service Frameworks and in particular "Keeping the NHS Local – A New Direction of Travel" (Department of Health, 2003).
- 2.2 The Strategy was developed during 2004 following two consultation events, involving a broad spectrum of local stakeholders.

3.0 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The conclusions of the strategy are:-
- both hospitals would provide a range of enhanced services to support primary care
 - both hospitals would retain the minor injuries units and primary care centres
 - both hospitals would retain intermediate care facilities
 - the designation of Lydney District Hospital as the main development area for Primary Care Services (e.g. diagnosis and treatment to support extended Primary Care)
 - the designation of the Dilke Memorial Hospital as the main centre for rehabilitative care
 - the estates should be reviewed in line with the potential of the existing facilities to be developed to provide the future level of required services
 - opportunities to develop the range of services provided and reduce activity currently being provided by GHNHSFT should be explored.

As a result it is recommended that :-

- The Dilke Memorial Hospital should be redeveloped and an option appraisal should be undertaken during the next 6 months to investigate the possibilities, with full public and patient involvement. This will help to determine the future shape of services in the Cinderford area and in relation to the Dilke Memorial Hospital whether it be part of a primary care facility.

- Lydney & District Hospital should be retained and the provision of additional outpatient accommodation investigated to develop services with full public and patient involvement.
- Investigate in-patient capacity to ensure maximum usage of the available capacity, especially when acute beds are under great pressure.
- Opportunities to increase the range of services should be explored during the next 6 months.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Board is asked to receive this paper, to note the contents of the Community Hospitals Strategy and to approve its recommendations.