

## **West Bridgford GP Practice Merger & Relocation**

### **Ludlow Hill, Southview, Trent Bridge, Compton Acres and Musters**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this briefing is to report on the proposed GP practice merger and relocation within West Bridgford.

#### **Proposal**

- Five practices wish to co-locate to a single site. Four intend to merge into a single large practice, with the other practice co-locating to the same site and working alongside taking advantage of joint working within the building.
- To provide facilities fit for purpose for General Practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the most practical way forward to safeguard the provision of locally delivered primary care.
- We have developed an initial shell design within the plans with space for other healthcare professionals such as private or NHS dentistry, optometrists, physio etc. Relevant procedures and policies internal and external to the NHS will clearly need to be followed. The build will be privately funded by the GPs.

#### **Draft timeframes**

Outline Planning Application	-	end of Jan
Planning Approval	-	end April
Start work on site	-	July 2012
Move into building	-	November 2013

## **Patient benefits**

The co-location of both practices will allow patients access to:

- Ground floor treatment and consultation rooms with capacity to deal with emergencies without preventing other clinical work to continue
- A Disability Discrimination Act compliant building
- Higher quality and consistent standard of clinical rooms
- A wider choice of healthcare professionals
- Opportunity for delivering more medical training at under and post graduate levels
- There will be more space and resources within the Practice, eg pharmacy, physio, minor surgery, extended hours (these facilities are available at some but not all of the current Practices)
- Greater number of free car parking spaces; currently car parking is limited to a few spaces per Practice and none at all at Trent Bridge, where patients currently have to pay to park. The new Practice will have a minimum of 72 spaces as defined by the Planning Department
- We will have a critical mass of patients and therefore we will be able to operate dedicated clinics such as diabetic clinics. These will draw on secondary care resources in a primary care setting reducing the requirement to travel to hospital (this is currently happening on a fragmented approach in some of the Practices)
- A greater range of extended hours provision
  - Ludlow Hill has been approached by the NHS counselling service, Let's Talk-Wellbeing, who are experiencing problems finding suitable accommodation within the West Bridgford catchment area. We would wish to support this service for local residents, as demand is high
  - There are considerable pressure on the local Drug and Alcohol Abuse team and there is a need for them to have a base to enable a weekly session to be run to see their patients. These patients would be drawn from both our practices and other local practices. This would work towards meeting the objectives detailed in the Nottinghamshire County Strategic Plan 2008-13 and assist in reducing the trend in alcohol related hospital admissions.
  - Practices are keen to develop specialist services aimed at younger people. It is clear from the Government White Paper that a welcoming environment and up to date approach to the needs of young people will make a decisive contribution to at least some of the problems.

- Additional services such as the C-Card Scheme and bereavement service (these are currently available at one out of the five Practices – 25,000 patients could benefit from access to this type of service)
  - A health promotion and meeting room for patient-led and community activities would be available for baby clinics, antenatal classes and weight loss support groups for example. Provision of adequate notice boards and health promotion room will be incorporated into the new building. An increase in education should improve the health and well-being of our Practice population, thereby reducing the demand on the Health Service.
  - We feel that we should offer our patients holistic care under one roof, a health organisation 'hub'. Our new facility would give the PCT or successor provider organisation the opportunity to co-locate district nurses, health visitors, midwives, community psychiatric nurses, counselling services etc. The PCT may also wish to consider the wider community who impact on health care, such as social workers. We intend to encourage the co-location of physiotherapy, chiropody and podiatry services to meet our patients' requirements.
- The merged Practice Patients will benefit from access to a greater pool of health professionals and the development of a triage service
  - The co-location will provide great benefits with our local community ward model. The interface with our community team should be enhanced by the Practices being in one location, multi-disciplinary meetings will be easier to conduct on one site rather than on five sites. Communication between the community team and the Practices will be enhanced, resulting in greater patient benefit. It is not an effective use of resources for the community team to travel between practices.

### **Who this affects**

- Patients, staff and service provision will benefit from this proposal
- Staff have been kept aware throughout the past three years regarding the opportunity of the relocation and the subsequent rationale regarding the merger of four of the Practices. During this time the Practices have replaced staff with staff on temporary contracts, a number of our staff are due to retire in 2013 and a number have expressed an interest in taking early retirement when the Practices relocate. Musters Medical Practice are relocating with their current staffing structure, however the merged Practices will be redefining their Practice structure and wish that all of our remaining staff will transfer into a new role within the new building. We will not have a defined staffing structure until further into the project but hope that we can manage our staffing to avoid any redundancies, however if this does occur we would support those staff through this process.

- Four of the five buildings are owned by individual Practices. The Practices are aware that we need to achieve a phased disposal of the sites. Some of the sites may be retained and converted back to housing, others will be sold and Compton acres will be leased to another type of healthcare professional – thus still generating an influx of people to that area. This has recently been helped by the introduction of Tesco, who will generate their own sustainable customer base.

### Engagement timescales

31.10.2011	Start of consultation period	Notes/ key messages
W/C 31.10.2011	Prepare FAQs  Letters to patient mailed	Specific web site also to be used for information and to be kept updated. Press releases to be issued.
W/C 31.10.2011	Display & comment cards available in all 5 practices	
W/C 31.10.2011	Stakeholder briefing released	Consultation and Open events
W/C 31.10.2011	Promote public events via website	NHS Nottinghamshire County Website  Principia Website  WB GP Practices involved with new build/merger
W/C 31/10/2011	Stakeholder event	Public meeting
W/C 14.11.2011	Staff and patient travel survey	Establish modes of transport to identify real and perceived transport problems to new site
<b>17.11.2011</b>	<b>Open event/s</b>	<b>Drop in session 8am – 7pm to view plans and speak to GP's about proposal</b>
1.12.2011	Close of consultation	
January 2012	PCT consider full business case	

We have active Patient Participation Group (PPG) involvement in all of the five Practices. The PPGs want to be part of the consultation exercise and we envisage through our consultation process that they will all be invited to attend a pre-formal consultation event and will become involved during the consultation process both within the Practices and at the formal events.

### **Transport**

- Prior to the planning application we have to produce a travel plan and this is currently ongoing; alongside this the practices are collating patients' actual travel arrangements, both to and from the surgery.
- Car parking – currently car parking is limited to a few spaces per practice and none at all at Trent Bridge, whose patients currently have to pay to park. The new practice will have a minimum of 72 spaces as defined by the planning department.

**Ends/**

**Rhiannon Pepper**

**On behalf of Karlie Thompson**

### **Executive Lead for Change Management**

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