

## News bulletin for community partners

Issue 1: March 2008

Hertfordshire's PCTs and acute trusts are now moving forward to implement the decisions made following the recent consultation and have begun detailed planning for the service changes. A senior level Programme Implementation Board and project teams have been established. Work is well underway on the development of a detailed implementation master plan. Regular updates of work in progress will be included in these monthly bulletins.

### **Appointment of Programme Director**

Andrew Butters has taken up this key post on an interim basis. Andrew works for Frontline Consulting and has 14 years experience working for the NHS at Board level. The permanent post has been advertised.

### **Involving stakeholders**

Letters explaining the consultation decisions and next steps have been sent to all individuals and groups who gave their views during the consultation period. Anyone wishing to become involved in planning for the new developments can contact us by calling 01707 361252 or by emailing: [getinvolved@herts-pcts.nhs.uk](mailto:getinvolved@herts-pcts.nhs.uk)

Stakeholder forums involving community representatives will be established to ensure ongoing dialogue with the programme board and project teams as the key health service changes come on stream in the different areas of Hertfordshire.

### **Local General Hospitals - Hemel Hempstead and Welwyn Garden City**

Working closely with West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust and East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, both Hertfordshire PCTs are leading the development of the new local general hospital model for Hemel Hempstead and Welwyn Garden City.

Project teams for the development of both hospitals have been established. They will issue regular reports to keep NHS staff and the community up to date with the services that will remain on the sites and the new services that will be developed.

### **Hemel Hempstead**

The project team includes clinical and managerial representatives of the PCTs and West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

As well as an urgent care centre, the local general hospital at Hemel Hempstead will continue to offer outpatient appointments that take place there at present, radiography, pathology, non urgent endoscopy and antenatal clinic services.

The West Hertfordshire PCT has begun a detailed piece of work to establish intermediate care beds on the Hemel site in advance of the transfer of acute admissions unit to Watford.



The tendering process to determine who will run the urgent care centre in Hemel Hempstead is well underway. A stakeholder day is planned in late March in partnership with Community Action, Dacorum. Local people - including parents of young children, older people and mental health service users - will be involved in the process by having the opportunity to question and highlight issues with potential bidders.

Following completion of the tendering process in June, the PCT will embark on a vigorous publicity campaign to raise awareness about the urgent care centre and how patients should use it. Front line staff who see and treat patients every day will play a big part in helping patients understand the changes.

Once the preferred provider has been appointed, they will work with the PCT and the West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust for a transitional period before the acute admissions unit moves from Hemel Hempstead to Watford. It will not move until the new acute admissions unit at Watford has opened.

Key dates for the Hemel Hempstead urgent care centre are:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| • Stakeholder day  | End March 2008      |
| • Agree final contract   | End June 2008       |
| • Set up service (to include staffing, policies and publicity) | July - October 2008 |
| • New service starts   | October 2008        |

### Welwyn Garden City

Health organisations in the east and north of the county are considering ideas put forward by a number of local people for a health campus in Welwyn Garden City when acute hospital services are centralised at the Lister from 2010.

They are urgently reviewing possible locations in the Welwyn Garden City area including the QEII site which is a strong contender, with a view to confirming the site by the end of April. Local community representatives will be involved in appraising the options.

£30 million has been earmarked for the development of a local general hospital in Welwyn Hatfield.

The first meeting of the project team is due to take place in the next week or so and will consider how best to ensure strong community involvement and engagement over the next three years.



### Transport and Access

Accessing health services was by far the most important concern mentioned by local people during public consultation last year.

In its response to the feedback, the local NHS gave a commitment to invest in improved transport services including reviving the Hertfordshire Integrated Transport Partnership with Hertfordshire County Council and the voluntary sector and funding a transport partnership manager to achieve effective and efficient transport planning, provision and increased access to information.

A draft project structure is under consideration and a job description for the manager post has been drawn up. A stakeholder group including users of services will be a key part of the development and prioritising funding of new services.

This bulletin has been produced on behalf of the **Delivering quality health care for Hertfordshire Programme Implementation Board**, made up of Chairs, Chief Executives and senior doctors from East and North Hertfordshire PCT, West Hertfordshire PCT, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust and West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust and representatives of the East of England Ambulance Service. It will be issued monthly. For further information please contact Hertfordshire Primary Care Trusts on 01707 361252, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust on 01438 781522 or West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust on 01923 693200.