

Question 4

4a) Which of the following categories do you fall into?

- Patient of West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust - Relative or carer of patient
- Local resident - NHS member of staff - Other (please specify)

4b) Which of the following local authority areas do you live in or closest to?

- Dacorum..... - Watford..... - Three Rivers..... - St Albans.....
- Hertsmere..... - Other (please specify)

4c) How old are you?

- Under 16..... - 16 – 24.....
- 25 – 34..... - 35 – 44..... - 45 – 54..... - 55 – 64.....
- 65 – 74..... - 75 – 84..... - 85 or over.....

4d) Are you...?

- Male..... - Female.....

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire

Please send this questionnaire to (no stamp is needed):

Fold on dotted line and stick down edges

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The Consultation Coordinator

FREEPOST NAT 2520

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Watford General Hospital

Vicarage Road,

Watford

Hertfordshire WD18 0BR

What won't change?

There are a number of services that will not change.

- Health services will continue to be delivered from all three of the main hospital sites in west Hertfordshire (Watford General Hospital, Hemel Hempstead General Hospital and St Albans City Hospital).
 - Outpatient appointments, therapy services, diagnostic services and intermediate care will be provided from all three sites.
- Emergency services will continue to be provided throughout west Hertfordshire. Ambulances will take some patients to Hemel Hempstead for urgent care and the more seriously ill to Watford.

How to respond to this consultation

The consultation will run from Monday 10 July 2006 to Monday 16 October 2006. Comments and completed questionnaires received by the consultation team before 5pm on Monday 16 October will be reflected in the final consultation analysis report.

Copies of the Public Consultation Document or this leaflet are available from:

- The Consultation Co-ordinator

FREEPOST NAT 2520, West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Watford General Hospital, Vicarage Road, Watford Hertfordshire WD18 0BR

- Or by emailing consultation@whht.nhs.uk

- The Consultation Document and further material can also be read online at:

www.westhertshospitals.nhs.uk/consultation.htm

- If you need this document translated, in larger print or in braille, please contact the Consultation Co-ordinator.

How to express your views

You can complete the questionnaire attached or by going online to:

www.westhertshospitals.nhs.uk/consultation.htm

If you wish to write to the consultation team to express your views or raise questions, please write to the Consultation Co-ordinator at the above address. And you can, of course, telephone free on 0800 093 7345 or email any comments you may have to consultation@whht.nhs.uk. Please use let us have your email address if you would like to be kept updated with our monthly email newsletter.

There are also consultation events, which will be regularly updated on the website, or you can telephone free on 0800 093 7345 for information of events in your area.

Delivering a healthy future in west Hertfordshire

Next steps in 'Investing In Your Health'



Public Consultation Leaflet

Consultation period:

Monday 10 July 2006 - Monday 16 October 2006



This leaflet describes some significant changes to the way hospital services could be delivered in west Hertfordshire, yet there are many that will not change. The most important point is that health services which people use most routinely will continue to be delivered from all three of the main hospital sites, ie Watford General Hospital, Hemel Hempstead General Hospital and St Albans City Hospital. We look forward to an informed, open and honest debate about the decisions we all face.

David Law, Chief Executive, West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Background

In March 2003, the consultation on “Investing In Your Health” defined the vision for local health care provision. There is growing evidence that these proposals offer better patient care and will help the NHS to address the challenging financial position in west Hertfordshire. We are now consulting on the implementation of the hospital based service proposals.

The clinical case for change

The support for consolidating hospital services in west Hertfordshire by separating planned and emergency treatments is overwhelming and recognised as best practice.

- It is safer to have acute services on a single hospital site. Currently, clinical teams, clinical equipment and clinical back up facilities are split between different hospital sites. These services are spread too thinly as we try to provide too many services on too many sites for the resources we have. This adversely affects the quality of care we are able to offer our patients.
- Emergency care starts in the ambulance. Highly trained paramedics with extensive clinical skills now staff “blue light” ambulances and the vehicles are stocked with life saving drugs and hi-tech equipment. Today the most important thing when you are seriously ill, is that the ambulance professionals get to you as swiftly as possible and begin your treatment before taking you to the appropriate place.
- Because emergency admissions take precedence, planned operations sometimes need to be cancelled at short notice. Consolidating emergency hospital services will help reduce disruption to patients having planned care.

The financial case for change

- In 2005/06 the West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust had a total deficit of just under £27m. The Trust’s total accumulated deficit currently stands at £41m.
- We have already started to act, £15m of potential savings have been identified, but this is just the start. We need to address service duplication.
- Without achieving financial balance we will not get the new hospital the people of west Hertfordshire deserve.

There are two options to consider in our proposals for change.

Proposals for change	Both Options	Option 1	Option 2
Watford General Hospital			
Acute services, such as A&E, intensive care, complex surgery, acute medicine and women’s & children’s service and a new Emergency Admissions Unit.	✓		
Investment to improve the existing infrastructure and facilities.	✓		
Outpatient services and diagnostic tests	✓		
St Albans City Hospital			
The focus of care for planned short stay inpatients		✓	
Day case surgical activity before the surgicentre is operational in mid 2008		✓	
Outpatient services and diagnostic tests	✓		
Minor Injuries Unit	✓		
Community and Intermediate care services provided by the local Primary Care Trust	✓		
Hemel Hempstead General Hospital			
The focus of care for planned short stay inpatients			✓
Day case surgical activity before the surgicentre is operational in mid 2008			✓
Urgent Care Centre treating minor illnesses and minor injuries	✓		
Outpatient services and diagnostic tests	✓		
Community and intermediate care services provided by the local Primary Care Trust	✓		
New surgicentre operational mid 2008	✓		

Consolidating services onto single hospital sites will improve patient care, deliver economies of scale and financial savings.

Consultation Questionnaire

This leaflet summarises two different ways in which service consolidation might be achieved in the period up to mid 2008 when the new surgicentre is scheduled to open at Hemel Hempstead.

Under both options, acute services - such as complex surgery and intensive care - would be centralised at Watford General Hospital; with the majority of planned surgical services – such as hip replacements or straightforward day surgery either:

- Under **option one**: at St Albans City Hospital; or

- Under **option two**: at Hemel Hempstead General Hospital.

Community and primary care based services, such as outpatients; diagnostic tests and intermediate care will still be provided at all the sites.

Question 1 *Please tick the appropriate box.*

Do you favour option one or option two?

- **Option one** - **Option two** - **Not sure/don’t know/neither**

Question 2 *Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

Are there any other options that you would prefer the Trust to consider that are equally cost-effective and clinically safe? If so please describe them below.

Question 3 *Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

Can you see any ways in which the proposals could be improved? If so please explain below.