

Report on Odiham Cottage Hospital for Hampshire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

NHS Hampshire remains committed to ensuring local people can access a range of community health care services that are of a high standard, both in terms of safety and quality of care and that are cost-effective.

Introduction

NHS Hampshire is currently carrying out an engagement exercise to determine how best to meet the health needs of residents living in and around Odiham.

The engagement follows notification from the current provider to the Odiham Cottage Hospital, Hampshire Community Health Care, that it did not wish to renew its contract to provide nursing services at the Odiham Cottage Hospital at the March 31 end of contract. NHS Hampshire has subsequently negotiated an extension to this contract to 31 July 2011.

This report is designed to update Members of Hampshire County Council's Health Scrutiny and Overview Committee on the project. It is not seeking a decision from the committee as there are currently no proposals to vary the services provided at the Hospital.

Background

Odiham Cottage Hospital is situated in the village of Odiham, north Hampshire. The hospital opened in 1910, to serve the residents of Odiham, Hartley Whitney and other smaller communities in the area. It offers twenty-four hour registered nursing care, provided by Hampshire Community Health Care in 12 beds (eight intermediate care and four continuing care beds). Physiotherapy is provided at the hospital one day per week.

The hospital is well-supported and treasured by the community. When it was at risk of closure in 1996, the community mobilised against the proposal and formed the Odiham Cottage Hospital Redevelopment Trust. Following extensive fundraising this Trust owns the site, along with managing the administration of the site.

Hampshire Community Health Care's decision to no longer provide twenty-four hour nursing care at the site was based around the fact that in order to provide safe services, significant mitigation of clinical risk has to be made. This includes difficulty in recruiting permanent staff, which in turn has led to high agency staff usage and a consistent overspend on staffing costs.

Profile of the local community

Odiham has a population of 5472 (2010 HCC data). The largest demographic is the 35-39 year olds (496 people). This group would include staff and families based at RAF Odiham. There were 962 residents aged between 50 and 70 living in the village in 2010, and some 602 people aged 70 or over.

The hospital also serves residents living in Hook and Hartley Wintney. The parish of Hook is home to 7600 residents (2010 figures) and Hartley Wintney is home to 4978 people (2010 figures).

Engaging with stakeholders and the local community

Odiham Cottage Hospital is well-supported by its local community. In 1999 a campaign was started to raise the funds to purchase the hospital building from the NHS. This was achieved and the hospital is now owned by the community and operated as a charity, overseen by a locally drawn group of trustees.

NHS Hampshire has been clear throughout discussions that there are two main elements to engagement with stakeholders and the community:

- The first is to explore how best the healthcare needs and in particular bed-based care needs of people living in the area can be met, be that within a community hospital, a nursing home or someone's own home
- The second element of engagement is to work with the trustees to offer advice on possible uses for the building, if an alternative nursing care provider cannot be found.

Stakeholder group and its role

NHS Hampshire has involved prominent organisations within the community, such as the Parish Council. In addition, a stakeholder group (the Hart Locality Stakeholder Group) comprising hospital trustees, parish, district and county councillors, representatives from the League of Friends, local GPs, and officers from NHS Hampshire, Hampshire Community Health Care and the Practice Based Commissioning Group has been established and is meeting every three weeks.

This group is tasked with working to establish possible options for the future provision of nursed care for the community.

The options for future provision of nursed care for the community include finding an alternative provider of bed-based care at the hospital, working more closely with Hampshire County Council on securing reablement services and beds in the area, or nursing people in their own homes.

Engaging with the community

NHS Hampshire has commissioned Hampshire LINK to carry out public engagement at venues in Odiham, Hook, and Hartley Wintney. A series of drop-in sessions took place between Monday March 7, 2011 and Tuesday March 15, 2011.

An on-line survey that explores people's views on both how nursing care can be provided for people within the community and on possible uses for the hospital building, was launched on Tuesday February 22, 2011. Members of the stakeholder group have had the opportunity to review, amend, and append to the survey – although not all the suggested amendments could be made. The survey is being run and analysed by Hampshire LINK using a web-based system.

Feedback from the community

A number of concerns have been raised by members of the public at meetings or the drop-in sessions. These are expressed below, with the responses NHS Hampshire

has been giving. The Q&A sheet attached at appendix one also identifies and addresses other questions that have been raised.

- **The decision has already been taken to close the hospital, so why didn't you consult the community on this decision?**

No decision has been taken about the future of the hospital. No paper or recommendation has been taken to the Board of NHS Hampshire; the only body able to decide on how the nursed care needs of the community should be met.

NHS Hampshire received notice that the provider of nursing care at the hospital did not wish to renew their contract. This prompted NHS Hampshire to begin to engage with stakeholders and the community.

Next Steps

Week ending March 25, 2011

1) Agree options appraisal criteria

The Hart Locality Stakeholder Group will agree the appraisal criteria against which all the possible options will be scored. The appraisal criteria will include;

- **How well the option meets the goals, mission and vision of the local NHS**
 - **How well the proposed option enhances quality of life for people with a long-term condition**
 - **Whether the option ensures that people have a positive experience of care**
 - **Whether the option offers value for money**
 - **Whether the option will be accepted by stakeholders**
- 2) Engagement survey closes
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The final date for submission of the completed surveys is Friday March 25, 2011. Completed surveys will be analysed by Hampshire LINK who will also prepare a report. This will be published on the Hampshire LINK website: www.hampshire-link.co.uk and on NHS Hampshire's website: www.hampshire.nhs.uk

Week commencing March 28, 2011 – Begin option review and appraisal

A wider stakeholder group will be involved in reviewing all the possible options and for scoring them against the criteria drawn up and agreed by the Hart Stakeholder Locality Group

Tuesday March 29, 2011

Hampshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – report and initial survey findings to be tabled.

Thursday March 31, 2011

Progress report goes to NHS Hampshire Board meeting. This will also include initial analysis of survey findings.

By April 15, 2011

Results of the survey will be published on the websites of both Hampshire LINK and NHS Hampshire. Those viewing the survey results will be invited to take part in a second survey to review the options for meeting the health care needs of the local community.

With the assistance of the stakeholder group we will ask the local community to complete the second survey on the possible options. This second survey will run after local elections (after Thursday May 5 2011) and results of this will inform a paper to the NHS Hampshire Board meeting of Thursday May 26, 2011.

Thursday May 26, 2011

NHS Hampshire board meeting. A paper on the preferred option for meeting nursed care needs for the community in and around Odiham will be presented to the Board of NHS Hampshire for its consideration.