

**East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Meeting on 26th March 2015**

Progress report on the development of a business case for the future provision of NHS dementia assessment beds in East Sussex.

Introduction and Background

Members will recall that a HOSC Task Group was set up to 'review the proposals for the provision of NHS beds for the admission and assessment of people with Dementia', and that its Report, conclusions and recommendations were approved by the full HOSC at its meeting in November 2013.

The conclusions and recommendations of HOSC were that:

1. There appears to be a sound rationale for reducing the number of dementia assessment beds (34) currently located at the Beechwood ward in Uckfield Community Hospital and at the St Gabriels ward in the St Anne's Centre at the Conquest Hospital in Hastings
2. There appears to be a sound rationale for locating the dementia beds at a single site. However, any reconfiguration to a single site should not be undertaken before a suitable site has been identified with appropriate physical surroundings, facilities and levels of care for patients
3. Consideration should be given, where practicable to locating the single site near to an acute hospital so that the multiple health needs of this group of patients can be better handled
4. The innovative ideas emerging around alternative models of support (including step-down facilities), need further development and must be in place before the reconfiguration can be undertaken.

These conclusions and recommendations were made available, and taken into account when Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Governing Bodies agreed at their meetings in December 2013, to pursue a "wholly new model of bed-based dementia services" following formal public consultation on options.

This decision was taken in the context of NHS dementia beds being under-occupied on two sites, and opportunities to consolidate on a single site with reinvestments in a new and wider range of community-based 'urgent care' services, aimed at providing alternatives to admission.

CCG Governing Bodies also recommended that a Working Group be established bringing together GP clinical commissioners and Trust clinicians, tasked with developing:

- The New Model of Care
- Options for Delivery
- Business Case

In parallel with meetings of the Working Group held between March and July 2014, others took place with Stakeholder Groups within the same timescales to gain their views on each of these pieces of work.

A Business Case incorporating proposals based on the outcomes from both the Working Group and Stakeholder Groups, for the new model of care and delivery options, was initially prepared in August 2014.

Further discussions and negotiations were subsequently held between CCGs and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT). The purpose was to clarify and resolve a number of details in relation to the new model of care, and secure the support of Trust clinicians that the proposals were both capable of delivery and would meet the needs of East Sussex patients.

This had the effect of delaying a further clinically endorsed version of the Business Case being produced until early in 2015.

Timescales for Approvals Processes

More recently, and due in part to the potential scale of capital funding requirements, it has been decided that a final recommendation for locating NHS dementia beds in East Sussex, should be subject to an inclusive process involving further clinical and patient engagement in the appraisal of different options.

Similarly collaborative development will take place of innovative new urgent-care services, such as step-down facilities providing alternatives to admission, in parallel with other improvements in pro-active care which reduce crises occurring, in line with the recommendations of the HOSC Task Group. These engagement processes will continue through to full implementation of any reconfiguration.

The revised timescales for finalising the Business Case for NHS dementia assessment beds and other new urgent-care services, and obtaining all necessary approvals through CCG governance structures is set out below.

- CCG Joint Commissioning Group for Dementia – March 2015
- Option Appraisal for locating NHS dementia beds – April to July 2015
- Finalisation of Business Case – August 2015
- HWLH CCG Clinical Executive Committee – September 2015
- EHS and H&R CCG Senior Management Team – September 2015
- CCG Governing Body Meetings – October 2015

Members of the HOSC will be invited to comment in advance once proposals are to be brought forward to CCG Governing Bodies, in the context of the approved recommendations made by the HOSC Task Group, and these will be taken in to account by CCG Governing Bodies when reaching their decisions.

HOSC will then be invited to consider the decisions made by CCG Governing Bodies.