

Select Committee Health and Adult Social Care, 8 July 2008

Report of the Director of Governance Dudley PCT

Briefing paper – Consultation regarding proposed change of GP service

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides information about a consultation currently underway with service users regarding a proposed change to a GP service at the 3 Villages GP practice. The committee is invited to give its views, specifying whether it is satisfied with the consultation process underway.

Background

2. The 3 Villages GP Practice currently operates surgeries in two locations – Wollaston and the new Stourbridge Health and Social Care Centre.
3. Several changes within the practice have prompted the organisation to look at their service delivery. Dr Issitt is retiring in the Autumn this year. The building in Wollaston that Dr Issitt currently uses is due to be sold later this year and the service in Wollaston therefore has to be moved.

Proposals

4. The practice has explored various options for its patients currently seen at Wollaston. The practice wishes to provide a suitable and appropriate base which will be fit for current and future purposes.
5. The practice is therefore proposing that patients who are currently seen at Wollaston would be transferred to the new surgery within the Stourbridge Health and Social Care Centre. The practice has improved facilities at this purpose built centre, and there is a Pharmacy and other healthcare teams at the same site.
6. The practice is required to make a formal request to the PCT to change the service in accordance with their contract. They are expected to do this following full consultation, which will conclude in Autumn this year. At this time the PCT will consider the proposal in light of evidence provided by the consultation results.
7. The practice has a number of patients on its list who are residents of South Staffordshire. The practice has informed South Staffordshire PCT of their proposals and the consultation underway.

Consultation process

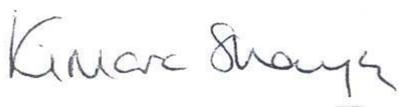
8. The Practice's Patient Forum has been fully informed and involved with the development of these proposals.
9. The Patient Forum recognised that transport from Wollaston to the new centre at Stourbridge may be an issue. Members have liaised with the bus company and report that there will be a new service, running from Wollaston Farm, through Wollaston Village and on into Stourbridge, with a stop at the new Stourbridge Health and Social Care Centre.
10. The practice has written to every patient informing them of the proposed changes, with the reasons for the changes, and asking for their views and responses. One letter was sent to every household. Patients were given several ways to respond – via email, letter or at their practice.
11. In addition, the practice is organising an Open Day, with the Patient Forum, at the surgery at the Stourbridge Health and Social Care centre, on 28 June 2008. This will provide an opportunity for patients to see the facilities, together with health awareness and information stalls and activities. It will also form part of the consultation – providing an opportunity to discuss the proposals and give views. An invitation to the event was included in the letter to each patient.
12. It is intended that the consultation period will continue to the end of August, which provides just over 12 weeks for patients and stakeholders to comment.
13. The views of the Health Select Committee are being sought as part of this consultation process.

Conclusion

14. The PCT has not taken a view on these proposals as it is awaiting the outcomes of the consultation. The practice will be required to present its formal proposals for any service change, together with its evidence from the service user consultation regarding the acceptability for patients of any change. The PCT is inviting the views of the Health Select Committee as part of this process.

Recommendation

15. The committee is invited to provide its views, particularly on whether it is satisfied that a full and fair consultation process with service users is being carried out. The PCT will report back any comments or recommendations to the practice, and consider the committee's feedback as part of the consultation evidence.



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