

**Select Committee Health and Adult Social Care, 8 July 2008**

**Report of the Director of Governance Dudley PCT**

**Briefing paper – Developing GP and Primary Care Services in Dudley**

**Purpose of Report**

1. This report provides an overview of the development of GP and Primary Care Services in Dudley.

**Background**

2. The PCT is currently developing the Primary Care Strategy, looking at the future of GP and other primary care services in Dudley. This sets the context for a number of plans, including two new GPs for Dudley, a GP led walk in centre and other development opportunities across the borough.

**Primary Care Strategy – the future of GP and Primary Care Services**

3. The Trust is currently drafting the Primary Care Strategy. This is a process of review and planning, looking at service provision in the context of the needs of Dudley's population now and in the future. This includes GPs, health centres, community nurses, other contractors such as pharmacists, opticians, dentists and other health professionals.
4. The Primary Care Strategy builds upon the overarching Joint Commissioning Framework and Strategy – which set the overall strategic direction for health and social care in Dudley. (This was subject to extensive engagement during 2007 including regular reports to this Committee).
5. Following on from the commissioning intentions set out in the above framework, the primary care strategy will establish the models and structures necessary to make improvements in services over the next 3 to 5 years, working with social care and voluntary services.
6. Further engagement is being carried out to explore areas in more detail relating to people's experiences of primary care services. This has included a citizen's survey of Dudley residents, focus groups with target client groups to explore views in more depth on key issues, and an 'Ask the Audience' and workshop session with the PCT Healthcare Forum, made up of patients, carers and representatives of community and voluntary organisations.
7. In addition, a further detailed needs assessment process has been carried out by the Public Health team to provide evidence on primary healthcare trends and needs. This has been complemented by a thorough desk review of patient and public research, encompassing many levels of consultation from the broad based

Local Health Survey of over 13000 Dudley residents, to local events run for specific client groups such as Black and Minority Ethnic Communities, carers and people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities.

8. Extensive discussions are also underway with health professionals and colleagues working in social care. There is a Project team overseeing the process, with representation from Dudley council. The work is being linked internally to Practice Based Commissioning, to build bridges with the local commissioning plans developed by 'clusters' of GPs for their communities.
9. The draft strategy which will be ready in Autumn this year, will present the findings of the work to date in a formal consultation for comments and views. This will double check that the PCT has captured the essence of Dudley's views and experiences to inform the direction of travel and shape the future of services. A written draft of the main points of the strategy, in an easy to read format, will be circulated widely to stakeholders.

### **New GPs and walk in centre**

10. The PCT is planning to open two new GP practices and a GP led walk in centre for Dudley, by Spring 2009. This is part of a national scheme designed to increase access to GP services where it is most needed. It will provide extended opening hours, particularly for the most deprived communities. The scheme is called "Equitable Access to Primary Care".
11. The PCT has established a project team to plan and implement this scheme locally, including the tender process, currently underway.
12. The new GPs will be located in Pensnett and Kate's Hill. The walk in centre location is yet to be confirmed but possible options include Dudley town centre or closer to Russells Hall Hospital. Locations of the new GPs were determined according to:
  - The needs of the communities
  - Demographic and deprivation factors
  - Numbers and age profiles of GPs
  - Performance levels and current GP provision
13. The review of patient and public views carried out for the Primary Care Strategy provided a baseline of information about patient experiences, as well as highlighting gaps in satisfaction and access, for example amongst Dudley Borough's Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

Further engagement will be carried out with the local communities to determine how best to meet the needs in the areas concerned, including opening hours, development of services and facilities.

The PCT sees this as an opportunity to build neighbourhood and community links in the long term, building an ongoing local reference group which will be an extension of the usual Practice – based patient group model.

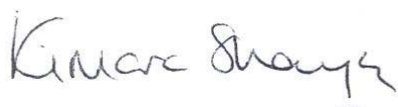
We are already working with the council's officers to make links with the Community Renewal teams' work and ensure that the neighbourhood engagement is joined up with local regeneration work in the long term.

### **Other opportunities**

14. We remain committed to improving our facilities across the Borough and there are a number of schemes already in progress.
15. The recently completed Stourbridge Health and Social Care Centre and the Brierley Hill centre currently under development are examples of 'LIFT' schemes (Local Improvement Finance Trust).
16. This commitment will continue, with the added knowledge and drive provided by both the Commissioning Framework and the Primary Care Strategy, helping to inform future developments.
17. There are plans for other specific developments in Dudley over the next 3 to 5 years, including a health centre for people living around Colleygate / Windmill Hill. Further local consultation will be carried out to help with the planning of any such development and local elected members are welcomed to take part in these.
18. In addition, there is an Emergency Care Strategy being developed, with partners including the Dudley Group of Hospitals. This will also take into account the overarching Commissioning Framework and the findings and modelling within the Primary Care Strategy, to ensure that the plans are complementary and seamless for the patient. Similarly, the development of these services and the proposed Urgent Care centre will include service user views as a reference point.

### **Recommendation**

19. It is recommended that the committee note the contents of the report and specify if they would like any further detail on any points made above. We also welcome any suggestions for further involvement of elected members on any points mentioned.



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