

Update on health service provision in Littlehampton May 2014

Introduction

NHS Coastal West Sussex CCG is working with partners, including Arun District Council, Littlehampton Town Council, NHS Property Services, and NHS England, to explore opportunities to develop new health facilities in Littlehampton.

The first phase of this work has been to look at the potential opportunities for the local NHS to improve GP practice premises in the wider Littlehampton area - and as a result, the services available at these practices for local residents, and this is progressing at pace. This work takes into account the availability of Section 106 money associated with the development of health services in the north of Littlehampton, and the urgent need to find new premises for two GP practices in the area, enabling the local NHS to address the increasing demand for GP services created by additional housing being developed in the north of the town.

The CCG is also committed to exploring the wider healthcare requirements – phase 2 – of the area, looking at existing community health services and how the CCG can address health needs identified in the area. Further detail on how phase 2 is being taken forward is outlined in this update.

Work to improve local GP services

Significant work has taken place in recent months in relation to the potential relocation of two GP practices in the wider Littlehampton area, improving the services they are able to offer local people, and we are pleased to confirm that a planning proposal has been submitted this month to Arun District Council's Development Control Committee.

The plans request approval for a change of use for an existing building on Courtwick Lane from commercial space to medical facilities. This would enable Arun Medical Group, which is currently based in East Street in Littlehampton and Sea Lane in East Preston, to relocate as a priority to a new practice building on this site, adjacent to the new Morrison's store in Wick.

The proposed site is within the catchment area of Arun Medical Group and is also in a suitable location to support the new homes planned for the north of Littlehampton. The practice are enthusiastic that a move would be very positive for the practice, allowing them to continue to provide their current services from a new, modern state of the art building, and provide an opportunity to increase the range of treatments and services they can provide.

Vacating the branch surgery at East Preston then presents an opportunity for The Lawns Surgery, which is currently in premises on the Zachary Merton Hospital site, to move into this building. Their current premises are very small and do not allow the practice scope for expansion in terms of additional staff or clinical services, and will also allow them to deliver increased services for their patient population. A potential relocation of the Lawns Surgery to East Preston would enable the practice to continue to develop to meet the needs of its patients, expand to take on new patients, and would also mean that the local community in East Preston retains a local GP practice.

The views of patients and members of the community have been taken into account in the development of the plans. There has been a series of patient and public events in the wider Littlehampton area to engage with patients and the wider community, and the feedback from these events has been extremely helpful in further developing the plans. Key themes included concern around the future of GP services in East Preston, access, transport, and expansion plans for both GP practices. These have been recognised in the planning application and work continues to provide further information and assurances, where necessary, in our on-going communication and engagement activity.

You can view the planning application on Arun District Council's website – www.arun.gov.uk and search for the planning application reference: LU/118/14/PL.

Engagement with patients and the local community will continue during the official planning process, and we encourage patients, members of the public and stakeholders to have their say on the plans.

Concern in relation to pharmacy applications for Courtwick Lane

We are aware that concern has been raised in regards to two submissions that have been made independently for a pharmacy at the Enterprise Hub site on Courtwick Lane.

It is important to be clear that this is not part of the CCG and AMG planning proposal and no conversations have taken place with either provider.

These applications are not related to the local NHS planning application and will be subject to the formal processes and approval led by NHS England Area Team, and then any further formal processes necessary such as planning.

We understand that local authority colleagues have been contacted by NHS England to give their views on the proposals, and we encourage partners to provide responses for consideration.

Looking at the wider health requirements in Littlehampton

Phase 1 of the work programme has centred on the urgent requirement for improving primary care provision in the priority areas of Littlehampton. Phase 2, involving the local authority, other NHS organisations and local stakeholders is now being planned.

This work will focus on exploring how health services need to be developed in the wider Littlehampton area to address the health needs identified in the area, including the proactive care team, mental health provision, public health services; and opportunities for more care closer to home. It will also importantly look at how the infrastructure and facilities currently support local health services, and whether these may need to be developed to support these services going forward.

A project team has now been established around this and a series of stakeholder events are being planned. Invites will be sent shortly, but if you would like to know more about this work and to be involved as it progresses please email [REDACTED]

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