

## E-Bulletin – Better Healthcare Closer to Home

Welcome to the February edition of the *Better Healthcare Closer to Home* programme newsletter. Key themes in this newsletter include:

- Strengthening the Programmes for Change in the Local NHS
- Permanent Leadership for Better Healthcare
- Progress to date
- Examples of local care developments
- Options for future news bulletins

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### **Strengthening the Programmes for Change in the Local NHS**

The local NHS in South West London and Surrey is simplifying their arrangements for strategic planning, linking work on the Better Healthcare Closer to Home programme and the Surrey Fit for the Future programme.

It has been agreed that Better Healthcare Closer to Home will focus on planning for people in Sutton and Merton, while Surrey Fit for the Future addresses the needs of Surrey people. Where there are issues which cover both areas the PCTs and the Epsom and St Helier Trust will work together.

A new structure will keep each programme informed about the other's progress and any services that need joint work will be identified early. This will also ensure that any future impact on Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust is recognised early on and can be managed in the right way.

For example, we need to modernise women's and children's services in the light of recent national research into best practice for mothers and new born babies. The two PCTs and the Trust are now setting up a joint project to engage local people, staff and experts to look at how we improve the current service. This project will report into both the Better Healthcare Closer to Home and the Fit for the Future programmes.

In summary then, it has been agreed that it would now be sensible for Better Healthcare Closer to Home to focus on:

- Sutton and Merton Local Care Centres
- The general hospital on the St Helier site
- Sutton hospital site feasibility study (for a primary/local care facility).

Surrey and its 'Fit for the Future' programme includes a focus on Epsom Hospital and developing local care in the Epsom area. It will use the work and analysis from the Better Healthcare Closer to Home programme, together with its own work to date elsewhere in Surrey.

As part of the changes to the oversight of the programme we have increased the involvement of non-executive directors from the PCT and acute Trust to strengthen the independent voice and increase scrutiny to the plans.

### **New Leadership for Better Healthcare**

Sutton and Merton PCT appointed a new permanent Chief Executive, Bill Gillespie, in January this year, and he will now take over leadership of the Better Healthcare Programme from Caroline Taylor, the previous Chief Executive. Caroline had agreed to continue to lead the Programme until a permanent appointment at Sutton and Merton PCT could be made. Bill said: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to take forward some real changes and improvements for local people in Sutton and Merton. From my discussions with patients and local people so far, I know that the idea of visiting a Local Care Centre for some health services rather than an acute hospital is very popular, as is the plan to redevelop the St Helier Hospital: my job now is to make this concrete reality as soon as we can."

A new programme Director for BHCH Stephen Waring took up post at the end of October 2007 and is supported by a programme manager Ailsa McGregor. They can be contacted on: 020 8251 0505.

### **Progress to date**

Work is continuing to look at the numbers of patients that would use local care centre health services and general hospital health services and how those services will be provided. It is important that the local NHS makes sure that these health services are in the right place, have the right volumes and are affordable in the long term.

### **Surrey PCT**

On 23 January, Surrey PCT held a public engagement event exploring the health needs of Epsom and the surrounding area, beginning the conversation to help the PCT decide what its future commissioning intentions should be for health services in this area. It will use the work and analysis from the Better Healthcare Closer to Home programme, together with its own work to date elsewhere in Surrey.

### **Examples of local care developments**

Recent and planned developments of local care outside hospitals under the Better Healthcare Closer to Home programme include:

- Blood testing  
A number of patients in Sutton and Merton are prescribed drugs (e.g. warfarin) to thin the blood due to various medical conditions. In the past, these patients had to go to hospital on a regular basis for blood tests, to monitor whether their treatment was working. This service is now available in GP surgeries across Sutton and Merton, enabling local residents to receive treatment closer to home.
- More services  
A number of GP practices in Sutton and Merton are now providing gynaecology and ophthalmology services for patients who previously had to go to hospital.
- Plans to develop a new health centre  
Sutton and Merton PCT has submitted plans to redevelop the Shotfield Health Centre. The £10 million health centre will be built on the same site as the existing GP clinic and will improve community-based health services for local people. It is anticipated that the new state-of-the-art health centre will be operational by Spring 2010. It will be three times the size of the existing GP clinic, and will provide more space to deliver high quality healthcare services including:
  - Two GP practices
  - An expanded community dental service that will be improved to meet local needs and will be able to see more people
  - New surgeries for podiatry (chiropody) services
  - New theatre rooms for minor procedures
  - Community pharmacy
  - Training rooms to teach doctors learning to be GPs

- Rehabilitation for older people Sutton

In Sutton, Cheam Priory Day Centre will be used as a rehabilitation centre for older people from April 2008. Sutton patients assessed at the Nelson Hospital will receive rehabilitation treatment at the day centre, alongside existing day care services. Under the new system, healthcare professionals will work closely with other services to ensure patients get the best treatment at the right time.

- Breast screening services in the community

Over 2008, breast screening services are moving from Sutton Hospital to Robin Hood Lane Health Centre. This is more convenient for patients as it is located in the centre of Sutton, with excellent public transport links.

### **St Helier Hospital**

Work with Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust, local GPs and primary care professionals is starting to refine what a Local Care Centre on the St Helier Hospital site could look like. The next steps of the BHCH programme will include submitting the outline business plans for each Local Care Centre, including plans for the one on the St Helier site, as well as phase 1 of the redevelopment and refurbishment of St Helier Hospital as a General Hospital. The NHS is confident that these plans are right for patients, and now needs to ensure that they are financially robust but flexible enough to adapt to advancement in medicine, or policy changes in the future.

### **Future News Bulletins**

Surrey PCT has been, and will continue to engage its local population about plans for health services in Surrey under the 'Fit for the Future' programme. Sutton and Merton PCT will continue to engage its local population on the development of Local Care Centres and any proposals being developed to improve St Helier Hospital. Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust will work with both PCTs and support them in doing this.

### **Options for Future News Bulletins**

**A** If you are primarily interested in Surrey health services and wish to be added to Surrey PCT mailing list for updates, please let us know using any of these contact details:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**B** If you live in Surrey and would still like to receive updates on developments on Better Healthcare Closer to Home in Sutton and Merton, please let us know using any of these contact details:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Under data protection regulations we cannot automatically pass on Surrey residents' details to Surrey PCT without your permission. If you are a Surrey resident you must make contact using the above details if you wish to continue receiving these News Bulletins.**

More information on Better Healthcare Closer to Home can be found on the website at [www.betterhealthcare.org.uk](http://www.betterhealthcare.org.uk)

Please email any correspondence to [yourviews@betterhealthcare.org.uk](mailto:yourviews@betterhealthcare.org.uk)

Or write to: FREEPOST RRLT-TZEL-GCSS  
Better Healthcare Closer to Home  
Hamilton Wing, Nelson Hospital  
Kingston Road, Raynes Park  
London SW20 8DB

More information on Surrey Fit for the Future can be found on the website:  
[www.surreyhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.surreyhealth.nhs.uk); or by calling: 0800 6525 297.