

Reshaping our health services for the future



Message from the Programme Director, Stephen Waring

"We have now almost reached the end of a four year process which has involved extensive discussions with local people, who agreed with us that they want both an excellent local hospital and also more care in local community settings. This month, the proposals to re-shape health services at a cost of over £200 million will be presented to the Boards of Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust and Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust. The proposals will then

be submitted to NHS London, the strategic health authority. If approved, local people will see major improvements in healthcare in phased developments between 2010 and 2017."

Patient benefits

Better Healthcare Closer to Home has been developed to improve the quality of care, bring services out of hospital and closer to home and increase access to healthcare in deprived areas. Under the programme we will:

- Invest around £185 million in disadvantaged areas
- Prevent 1,000 unnecessary hospital admissions every year – with more services in people's own homes and in the community.
- Enable 1,500 patients a year to recover 20 per cent faster – with more post-hospital care in people's own homes.
- Ensure that 65 per cent of local people in Sutton and Merton are no more than 10 minutes travel time from their nearest outpatient appointment (as opposed to 35 per cent of people at the moment)
- Reduce travel times by 30 per cent for people with long-term conditions

Better Healthcare Closer to Home proposals

As mentioned in the last e-bulletin, the first stage of the proposals to transform local health services was discussed at the July Board meetings of Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust and Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust. More work has now been done on the precise shape of services and the cost of running them, and the final outline business case will be submitted to the Trusts' Board meetings in September.

Welcome to the latest e-bulletin for Better Healthcare Closer to Home, the local NHS programme for improving healthcare in Sutton and Merton. This e-bulletin includes the following:

- Message from the Programme Director
- The investment plan
- Intermediate care

More information

More information on Better Healthcare Closer to Home can be found on the website at:

www.betterhealthcare.org.uk.

Please email any correspondence to:
communications@smpct.nhs.uk.

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

Board meetings

Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust Board,
Friday 5 September
9.30am to 11.30am -
Nonsuch Room,
Postgraduate Centre,
St Helier Hospital

Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust Board,
Thursday 18 September
3.30pm Pinewood Lodge,
Orchard Hill, Fountain Drive,
Carshalton SM5 4NR

Major investment in St Helier

Under the proposals, there would be major investment in St Helier Hospital to improve services for patients. The first phase of redevelopment at St Helier is likely to cost around £140 million. It would remain the main hospital for the two boroughs, complete with its 24 hour A&E department and range of inpatient

services. It would be substantially rebuilt to provide 21st century care for patients, including up to 50 per cent single rooms to give patients more privacy and help in the fight against healthcare acquired infections.

Samantha Jones, Chief Executive of Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust, commented:

"These plans will help us to further improve the services that we offer to local people. By rebuilding a section of the hospital we can make sure that local people receive safe, high quality healthcare in a clean and welcoming environment – with many more single rooms."

Intermediate care

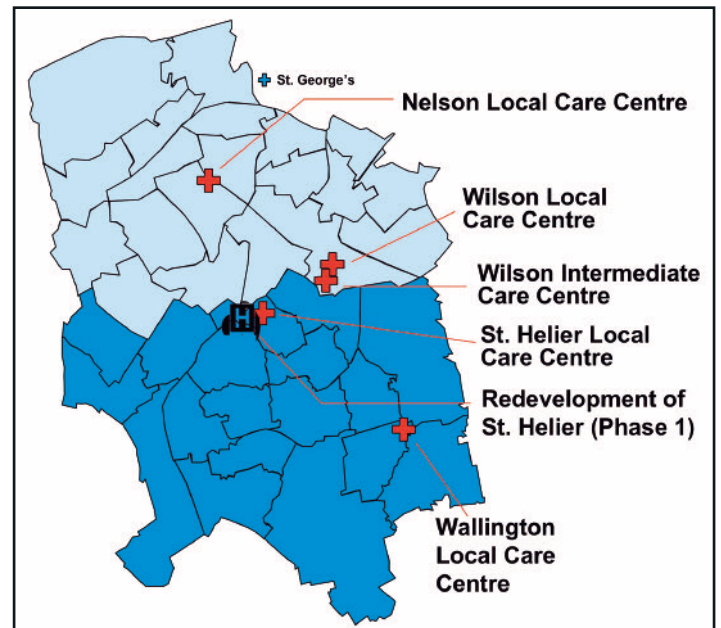
Under the proposals, 'intermediate care' services for people who don't need to go to hospital or who need rehabilitation after a hospital stay, would be expanded - with many people receiving care in their own homes, and some receiving care in a new purpose-built centre.

Local resident Dee Szatmari has an auto-immune disease, leading to 'pleurisy' (bad chest infections). Dee said:

"When I get pleurisy, I get a referral to intermediate care from my doctor. The intermediate care team then comes and visits me in my own home, which means that I don't have to go to hospital. They come in three times a day, and a night nurse visits at night, to give me antibiotics through a drip. The chest infection usually lasts 10 days to two weeks.

"Receiving treatment in my own home means I don't have to go to hospital. It's much better being treated at home – because of my condition I don't have a strong immune system, so have to be segregated from other patients if I go to hospital.

"The intermediate care team does an excellent job and is very caring. I think expanding intermediate care services, and raising awareness of them, is a great idea. I'm sure that there are a many more people who could be treated in their own homes, preventing hospital admissions."



The local care centres

Four 'local care centres' would be developed at the Nelson Hospital, the Wilson Hospital, Shotfield Health Centre in Wallington and at St Helier Hospital itself (in addition to the local hospital). The location of the local care centres has been chosen to:

- Cover all residents in Sutton and Merton
- Increase access to healthcare in the most disadvantaged areas
- Offer good public and private transportation links

Many hospital based outpatient clinics would move to the new local care centres, where a range of outpatient, diagnostic and clinical services would be established. An urgent care centre for non-emergency patients at St Helier is also planned.

Dr Martyn Wake, Medical Director of Sutton and Merton PCT and a local GP commented:

"When the new local care centres are up and running, patients will be able to get 8am to 8pm care, pop in there for a GP appointment, a blood test or X-ray, or even see their hospital consultant."