

Agenda No 8(1)

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Committee	15th June, 2005
Report Title	Community Hospital Beds Pilot for South Warwickshire
Summary	The Committee to receive details of this project from South Warwickshire PCT. Copy correspondence attached.
For further information please contact:	Alwin McGibbon Health Scrutiny Officer Tel: 01926 412075 alwinmcgibbon@warwickshire.gov.uk
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	No.
Background papers	None

Community Hospital Beds Pilot Project for South Warwickshire

Why has it been necessary to pilot a new way of using community beds?

A review has been undertaken of the use of the beds at Royal Leamington Spa Rehabilitation Hospital, Alcester Hospital, Ellen Badger Hospital in Shipston and the Nicol Unit at Stratford Hospital.

The review identified that the current provision sometimes results in:

- An inequitable service for the population of South Warwickshire, with GP's in some areas not able to access admission prevention beds.
- Variable duration of stay for the same condition depending on which unit a patient is admitted to
- Occasions when there are empty beds in one hospital and a patient from another part of South Warwickshire needing a bed that they cannot use under the current arrangements because the total number of community hospital beds are not available as one resource.

How have you involved the public in a decision to review the use of these beds?

As part of the local delivery plan (LDP) consultation we recently asked people in South Warwickshire for views about; how we use our services and what principles are important to them. We also asked some specific questions about community hospitals. Responses to these questions were as follows:

- Do you agree that we should look at how we use our beds to allow access by primary care staff?
84% said yes 13% did not answer and 3% said no
- Do you agree that where a local bed is not available the nearest one should be made available to ensure equity of access?
82% said yes 9% did not answer and 9% said no

We held a public meeting in Shipston where local residents were given and used the opportunity to discuss their views with PCT directors and their GPs.

The PPI forum is represented at locality management team (LMT) meetings where proposals are discussed with GPs and other community staff.

What will the pilot scheme do?

The pilot will divide the available beds into 3 areas of use:

Admission Prevention - which will be accessed and managed by GP's for people not needing the facilities of an acute hospital to be cared for locally.

Rehabilitation – targeted at short term interventions that will speed up a patients recovery and return to home

Transitional care – for people no longer needing acute hospital services or rehabilitation but need nursing care whilst . Access to these beds will be via one point of contact in the PCT. The pilot scheme will run for three months from April 2005 to June 2005, during which time:

- beds will be made available to all GP's across South Warwickshire to be used for admission prevention
- clear guidance for accessing beds will be produced to ensure that patients are in the right setting to meet their needs.
- patients needing a rehabilitation or transitional care bed will, whenever possible be given one near to their home but when this is not possible an alternative bed will be found with a view to returning the patient to their most local site as soon as capacity and their condition allows. The priority being to ensure that the patient is able to access a bed that is appropriate to their needs at that time

How will the pilot scheme be evaluated?

The pilot will be evaluated with the following issues being considered:

- equity of access for patients
- length of stay
- quality of care
- Number of admissions to acute hospitals avoided
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- delayed discharges

This pilot is the result of work undertaken jointly between South Warwickshire PCT, South Warwickshire General Hospitals Trust and Warwickshire Social Services.

Having reached agreement on running a pilot detailed planning is now underway to ensure that the pilot is commenced as early as possible in 2005.

A task group has been set up to implement, monitor and evaluate the pilot programme. Membership of this group includes

GPs	Richard Lambert (Alcester) Theo Schofield (Shipston) Tim Coker (Southam and as PCT clinical governance lead) John Jaques (Stratford) Sue Inman (Warwick) Dave Spraggatt (Warwick)
Stratford Locality Manager	Sue Morgan
Warwick Locality Manager	Sarah Phipps
Intermediate care manager	Claire Williams
Modern Matrons	Norma Whittal (RLSRH) Pat Dunn (Stratford) Sue Kilgour (Alcester) Penny Whitesmith (Ellen Badger)
Senior Nurse	Julia Packer (Warwick)

Head of Commissioning Alison Hawley
Joint Development Pete Sidgewick
Manager – Older People
Other members to be co-opted as required.

Reporting

At the end the pilot, the group will report to the PCT on the outcomes of and make any necessary recommendations for changes to the system. Any changes that are recommended will then be consulted upon further.

Community Hospital Beds Project Consultation Plan

How will we consult on the pilot scheme?

During the pilot period we will ask patients who are in the units to give us their views which will be recorded to produce a report at the end of the pilot.

We will ask people attending the local clinics to give us their views on the idea via an electronic survey that they can complete while they are in the waiting room.

Once the pilot scheme has been completed we will share the information that has been gathered and produce a list of the options to take forward and the recommended route based on the information provided by the pilot.

- We will supply this report to all those people on our consultation database (currently in excess of 300 people) and ask them to give their views on the way forward.
- We will carry out 3 focus groups to discuss the proposals in detail (a staff group, a patient group and a public group)
- We will place an advert in the local press inviting anyone who wishes to make their views known to contact us so that we can send them the relevant information and means to comment.
- Online contributions will be available through our website which will carry all the information from the public event along with questions and mechanisms to respond
- Staff will be offered the opportunity to attend a presentation of the information and to comment through the internal online system. They will also be able to feed comments back through their managers who will be directly involved in developing the plan
- We will present the information to the PPI forum and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Once these steps have been completed the pilot will be evaluated on the following factors. Does it:

- Improve quality of care in the eyes of the patient
- Improve equity of access for patients
- Reduce length of stay
- Improve or reduce quality of care for patients
- Prevent unnecessary admission to acute care
- Reduce delayed discharges

At the end of the pilot, the group will report to the PCT on the outcomes and any recommendations for changes to the system will be consulted on prior to a final decision being made.

The results of project will be reported to:

- all recipients who responded directly
- will be made available to the public on the web site, on request and through main public areas such as Libraries and PCT sites
- will be shared with OSC, PPI forum, all affected organisations, CVS
- staff