

Agenda No 1(4)(i)

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<i>Name of Committee</i>	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<i>Date of Committee</i>	28th September 2005
<i>Report Title</i>	Lighthorne Heath Branch Surgery
<i>Summary</i>	The Committee to receive an update on the closure of Lighthorne Heath Branch Surgery - letter attached.
<i>For further information please contact:</i>	Phil Maull Senior Committee Administrator, Tel: 01926 412834 philmaull@warwickshire.gov.uk
<i>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</i>	No.
<i>Background papers</i>	None

15 September 2005

Dear

Lighthorne Heath Branch Surgery

We wrote to you last on 7 June 2005 and this letter therefore is to:

- Describe the background
- Give a summary of the views received from the consultation process
- The decision made
- Describe the short and long term measures being put in place taking into consideration the views received from the consultation process
- Provide any further relevant details

Lighthorne Heath Branch Surgery - Background

Dr Woodward and Dr Melton have their main surgery in Kineton, and also see patients in a small branch surgery in Lighthorne Heath. The practice had applied to close the branch surgery in Lighthorne Heath with services to people in Lighthorne Heath being provided from the main surgery in Kineton and this had been planned to be with effect from 1 September 2005.

The property used as a surgery in Lighthorne Heath is no longer suitable for this use in that it fails to meet a number of Department of Health requirements:

- It does not have a treatment room or facilities for a practice nurse
- There is no access for wheelchair users or facilities for people with other disabilities
- Access (including emergency) is via a steep, narrow staircase
- Consultation room allows conversations to be overheard

The practice had asked for the Primary Care Trust's support for the closure and, in view of the unsuitability of the premises, the Primary Care Trust has agreed to support the closure. There are two ways that a practice can be closed. The practice can apply to close a branch surgery and ask for support from the Primary Care Trust. They can notify the Primary Care Trust that they are giving notice and close after that notice period.

It is a priority for South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust to ensure that local health services meet local needs using the resources we have available. We do this by working with all sections of the community to hear their views and involve them in developing future services and this was duly carried out (see below). We also involved the community in decisions about necessary changes to existing services.

The Consultation Process

The original aims of the consultation were:

- To ensure that we can identify all the implications for patients
- To share how we would continue to meet patients needs when the surgery closes
- To listen to the views of the patients giving them the opportunity to help in developing suitable alternative provision
- To provide feedback to the decision making committee ensuring that the final recommendation had considered and reflects the views of the patients and local population that could be affected by this change

The way that we consulted was:

- A public meeting was held in June in Lighthorne Heath where information was available, practice staff and members of the Primary Care Trust were there to discuss plans and answer questions
- We wrote to all the patients registered at the surgery
- We accepted views to the PCT in writing
- We informed and involved the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Public & Patient Involvement forum
- We liaised with all staff who could be affected by changes such as community staff who may work from the surgery
- We informed Social Services
- We liaised with a local resident (volunteer from the public meeting)
- We liaised with all stakeholders

The feedback we had from this was:

- Verbal feedback from the public meeting
- Four letters direct to the PCT
- A petition of signatures direct to the PCT
- Four telephone calls direct to the PCT and two to the Kineton surgery
- Feedback from the formal process itself

The summary results of the consultation were:

- A permanent solution to the problem
- The future service for Lighthorne Heath
- Transport to the Kineton surgery
- Bus timetables to the Kineton surgery
- Opening times of Lighthorne Heath surgery

The Decision

The decision is to close the branch surgery on 29 September. Following this date please see short-term measures below.

This letter will be sent to:

- All recipients who responded directly
- All the patients registered at the surgery
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- The Public & Patient Involvement forum
- All staff who could be affected by changes
- Social Services
- All stakeholders

The Short-term Measures In Place

Surgery arrangements in place:

- Telephone consultations – To reduce the need for travel
- Bus timetable patient appointments – Dedicated time slots at Kineton surgery that fit around the bus timetable
- Provision at Kineton surgery – Availability of appointments at the surgery for patients
- Transport via Community Voluntary Sector – See surgery notice board for details
- Repeat prescriptions will be available to collect from the Lighthorne Heath Post Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12.30pm. This service will be subject to review.

The Longer-term Measures Being Worked On

Discussions have been held with South Warwickshire Housing Association, Stratford District Council, the Parish Council and the PCT over a number of years to agree a replacement facility in Lighthorne Heath. To date there are no agreed plans to provide alternative accommodation, however meetings have been taking place for usage of a bungalow from South Warwickshire Housing Association being 'potentially' built, but subject to the planning process.

Summary

In summary the PCT is fully supporting the process for both short-term measures and working towards a longer-term aim and will continue to do so. If suitable alternative accommodation can be provided in Lighthorne Heath in the future, the practice wishes to reinstate the branch surgery.

Yours sincerely

Peter Dodd
Stratford Locality Manager