

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Health Overview And Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Committee **29 November 2006**

Report Title **Stratford Hospital - Nicol Ward**

Summary The attached is the update report on the current management of Nicol Ward for consideration at item 3 of the agenda for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 29th November 2006.

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Further to discussions in the early part of 2006 we are responding to your request for an update on the current management of Nicol ward at Stratford hospital.

As you will be aware the Nicol Unit is an inpatient ward with 24 beds, providing care for patients who are not in need of acute care but do need community hospital care. The clinical cover for this unit is provided by local GPs and the service itself was provided and managed by the South Warwickshire General Hospitals Trust.

South Warwickshire General Hospitals Trust took the decision they could no longer provide this service and advised the PCT of this by formally giving notice.

The PCT recognised the benefit of operating all four community hospitals as part of a co-ordinated, integrated system, and South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust recognised that the service would fit better with the Primary Care Trust's portfolio of community services. The service provided in the Nicol Unit is not acute hospital care but rather that described as 'community care'.

The PCT and South Warwickshire General Hospitals Trust worked together to ensure a seamless transfer of the service and staff to the PCT. This was completed in September 2006 and the service remains with the same staff but is now under the direct management of the PCT.

The Nicol Unit had previously been outside the PCT's community hospitals pilot scheme and has now been brought into the same management as other South Warwickshire community hospitals, increasing the access we can offer to patients in the area.

Claire Williams
Manager Intermediate Care Team