

Briefing for Overview and Scrutiny Committee**Development of Billingham Health Centre****August 2012****INTRODUCTION**

The committee will be aware that NHS Stockton-on-Tees currently has two main facilities in the Billingham area, Billingham Health Centre and Billingham Clinic.

Both of these premises are extremely dated and in need of substantial redevelopment to meet standards required for modern healthcare and to improve the patient experience. In addition, following the Abbey Health Centre GP Practice development, two of the former tenant practices moved out of Billingham Health Centre leaving this facility underutilised and therefore no longer operating efficiently.

Billingham has also previously been identified as a key location for enhanced community services as part of the *Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare* programme

It is therefore proposed to substantially redevelop the existing Health Centre site and dispose of the Clinic site. This proposal will result in significant capital investment in the existing health centre to substantially redevelop and improve the facilities and to reconfigure the interior to accommodate users and improve patient flow.

BACKGROUND

The *Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare* programme set out a transformational programme of reconfiguration of services for Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees and parts of County Durham, intended to ensure high quality healthcare is delivered in the right environment and in premises which are fit for purpose. In March 2009 Billingham was identified as a site for an Integrated Care Centre as part of the *Momentum* programme.

A number of services currently operate from the two existing sites as follows:

Billingham Health Centre

- Queenstree GP Practice with a patient list size of 3,869;
- Community clinic services including Phlebotomy, Health Training, Midwives, Smoking Cessation Clinic, Baby Clinic, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Continence, Heart Failure, Sexual Health, Mental Health;
- Billchem Pharmacy.

Billingham Clinic

Community clinic and administration functions including Health Visitors, District Nurses, Matrons, Oral Health Promotion, Podiatry, Mental Health.

PROCESS

After careful consideration of the options which included a full cost benefit analysis, Outline Business Case approval has been secured from both the NHS Stockton-on-Tees Board and NHS North of England (the Strategic Health Authority (SHA)) to redevelop the existing Health Centre site and dispose of the Clinic site. This is subject to approval of Full Business Case by NHS Stockton-on-Tees, NHS North of England and the Department of Health.

In order to secure Department of Health approval for the scheme and complete the programme of works prior to the abolition of Primary Care Trusts including NHS Stockton-on-Tees (31.03.13), the delivery timescales are extremely tight. NHS Stockton-on-Tees, working in partnership with its LIFT (Local Improvement Finance Trust), is expecting to deliver the scheme to the following timelines:

August 2012	Finalisation of footprint / specification and detailed design Heads of Terms agreed with tenants Planning / Building Regulations application submitted Engagement with patients, carers, the public and stakeholders
September 2012	Cost / procurement arrangements finalised Approval of Full Business Case (FBC)
October 2012	Completion of engagement activity, analysis of responses and preparation of report Mobilisation of contractor / commencement on site
March 2013	Completion of works / final fit out
April 2013	Fully operational

The majority of works will be inside the building with planning permission required only for a small extension to house the plant room and to change the entrance to the facility. In order to minimise disruption it is proposed that the internal work will be delivered on a phased basis over the construction period.

All existing and potential tenants have been consulted and engaged in determining and agreeing the footprint required for respective services. Each tenant will be asked to formally approve detailed plans to ensure functionality and fitness for purpose.

IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

It is envisaged that the proposed changes will lead to significant improvements in the healthcare facilities available to patients in Billingham. The redeveloped Health Centre will include all patient services currently operating from both the Health Centre and the Clinic, and will include flexible space which can be adapted for use by additional community services as part of the *Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare* programme in the future.

In addition, the CCG has identified Billingham as an ideal strategic location for their Headquarters, being conveniently located between Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees.

Patient services will be located on the ground floor with the upper floor dedicated to CCG Headquarters and other community-based administrative services.

Given the very close proximity of the Health Centre and Clinic sites currently, the relocation of clinic services to the Health Centre is not expected to impact on patient access. The state of current accommodation for these tenants and their patients will be vastly improved. The building will be more efficient and patient flow will be improved. Disruption to tenants and patients throughout the site works will be managed through a phased work programme.

The residents and public in the surrounding area may be subject to some potential disruption, due to noise and site access requirements, however this will be minimised in consultation with Local Authority planning and highways colleagues.

We feel that this redevelopment is a positive one for local residents, tenants, patients, the public and local stakeholders. In particular, investment in health infrastructure for the longer term to accommodate patients in the most appropriate setting is in keeping with national and local strategic aspirations to significantly improve quality of services and patient experience.

NHS Stockton-on-Tees and NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG are also supportive of the Local Authority and community's aspirations to regenerate the Billingham area. By redeveloping the existing Health Centre and freeing up the Clinic site (which is attached to the existing Local Authority library facility) it is expected that the very dated Clinic site will be disposed of by NHS Property Services and will then be available for redevelopment or alternative use.

INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE

NHS Stockton-on-Tees and NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG are committed to effectively informing and involving patients, carers, the public, and local partners and stakeholders in the redevelopment of Billingham Health Centre.

The development of enhanced community facilities for Billingham was included as part of the formal consultation for the *Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare* programme.

A six week engagement opportunity is proposed around this development, and views will be invited on the following questions:

1. What do you think about the proposed redevelopment of Billingham Health Centre?
2. Is there anything we need to consider to make the centre easy for people to use, and to ensure that patients have a positive experience of the venue?
3. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

A Communication and Engagement Action Plan has been developed and is appended to this briefing.

It is anticipated that further communication and engagement activity will be undertaken around any proposed relocation of services from other venues into Billingham Health Centre, and this will be preceded by further briefing of the Committee.

ACTION FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the content of this briefing and highlight any additional issues that they feel may need addressing in informing and involving the local community and how they may wish to be involved.