

Appendix 1

Briefing for Stockton Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 7th May 2013

Proposed relocation of physiotherapy and occupational therapy service for patients with long term neurological conditions

1.0 About the service

The physiotherapy and occupational therapy service provides skilled assessment and rehabilitation of patients from the North Tees area with long term neurological conditions.

The service is provided by physiotherapists with a specialist knowledge and experience in the management of adults with a range of conditions including Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, spinal cord injury, head injury, Motor Neurone Disease, Muscular Dystrophy and long-standing stroke.

During 2012/13 there were 1451 appointments (201 new appointments and 1250 review appointments) and 99 patients discharged from the care of the team. Many patients access the service for a number of years.

2.0 Proposal

We are proposing to relocate this service from its current base at the University Hospital of North Tees, Stockton, to a newly built facility within Billingham Health Centre. Billingham Health Centre is close to Billingham town centre and approximately 4 miles away from University Hospital of North Tees. The existing space occupied by the team in the hospital will be utilised by another service.

The proposed change of location is part of the Momentum programme which aims to improve acute and community health services for people in the North Tees and Hartlepool area. This includes the building of a new hospital in Wynyard and the delivery of a greater range of services in the community.

Why are we proposing to move the service?

- We believe that by moving the service we can improve patient care. Billingham Health Centre will have more space than the current facility. This means it can accommodate a range of new, specialist equipment that patients do not have the opportunity to use as part of their assessment and rehabilitation programmes at the moment.
- The facility at Billingham will be solely for the assessment and treatment of patients with long term neurological conditions. This means that there will be greater choice and availability of appointments than at present. The

University Hospital of North Tees location is shared by other therapy teams who support patients with a wider range of conditions.

- We want to provide as much healthcare as possible within the community rather than in a hospital setting. Providing care in the community, closer to where people live and work can be more convenient for patients.
- Patients are charged for using the car park at University Hospital of NorthTees. There is free car parking at Billingham Health Centre and in the nearby town centre.
- Approximately 25 per cent of service users arrive by ambulance. There is a dedicated ambulance parking bay at Billingham Health Centre which is close to the main entrance.
- The room allocated to the service is next to the reception area within Billingham Health Centre so is closer than the current location to the Hospital entrance.
- There are good bus services from Stockton to Billingham town centre.

3.0 Next Steps

We plan to write to all stakeholders, service users and carers to seek their views about the proposed change of location. We have also invited them to view Billingham Health Centre and discuss our proposals with members of the therapy team.

We have consulted widely with affected staff who support our proposal to relocate this service.

Subject to discussion with Stockton Overview and Scrutiny Committee stakeholders will be written to with a deadline in June to raise any queries and responses will be reviewed. The service could move into the new facility by the end of June 2013.