

HEALTH SERVICES FOR SUDBURY



Information for the people of Sudbury

ISSUE 6 APRIL 2001

Business case approved

Following approval by local health organisations, the health authority and Community Health Council, the Outline Business Case, OBC, for Sudbury Community Hospital can now be submitted to the Eastern Region NHS Executive for approval.

The OBC was given the 'green light' by members of the West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust, Bury St Edmunds Primary Care Group and Suffolk Health Authority Boards. During the course of the Health Authority Board's discussion, the Chairman of West Suffolk Community Health Council confirmed the Council's support for the OBC to proceed.

The project remains on schedule with approval of the OBC by the NHS Executive expected early summer. Placement of an advert in the European Journal for a Private Finance Initiative partner will follow quickly.

MP and councillors visit to check on hospital progress

Sudbury's Walnuttree Hospital proved to be a popular attraction during February, when it hosted visits by MP Tim Yeo, and a delegation of Babergh District Councillors.

Mr Yeo visited Walnuttree at the beginning of February to find out what progress was being made towards the provision of the new Sudbury Community Hospital.

He met Veronica Worrall and Johanna Finn, respectively Chairman and Chief Executive of West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust, together with Stephanie Preston, Manager of Walnuttree Hospital and Project Manager Dave Poulter.

In addition to a presentation of the scheme and general discussion, Mr Yeo was shown around Walnuttree Hospital to see at first hand the

current facilities available to the people of Sudbury.

Following his visit, Mr Yeo said he was appointing himself as 'a one man watchdog' for the scheme and he was hopeful that the scheme would progress.

Later in the month a delegation from Babergh District Council also visited Walnuttree to find out for themselves how the new hospital scheme was progressing.

During an hour-long discussion and presentation their queries were answered by the Chairman, Chief Executive and Project Manager, after which all agreed the visit had been a success. The councillors expressed the view that they were more confident than they had been that the hospital would be built.

Q & As at AGM

Johanna Finn and Dave Poulter attended the Annual General Meeting of Sudbury Town Council which was held in the Town Hall on 21 March, to present an update and answer questions on the community hospital scheme.

Despite the lateness of the hour there was plenty of interest from those present particularly concerning the range and volume of services that will be provided from the new hospital. The audience proved to be well informed regarding the history of the scheme and asked a wide range of questions.

Planning update

Agreement has now been reached on the final details of the application for Outline Planning Permission for the new Sudbury Community Hospital, following lengthy discussions between West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust and the planning officers at Babergh District Council.

Provision of pedestrian and cycle access across the site is to be included as part of the development. It has also been agreed that a portion of the site should be made available for general public amenity, unless and until it is required for some future development of health services on the site.

Testing for any evidence of landfill gas on the site has now been completed, and it has been given a clean bill of health. This was the final piece of information required by Babergh District Council, and we are therefore now waiting for receipt of formal Outline Planning Consent.

One site will improve service:

The people of Sudbury receive high quality health care, despite ageing facilities, but at present these services are spread over three separate sites.

The new Outpatients Department in the Sudbury Community Hospital will bring together Community and Acute health services in a way

that will promote a truly cohesive service.

Using an approach that engenders efficient use of shared space, reducing waste of time and effort, the new Outpatients Department will provide all those services currently available, from Eyes to Elderly care, Child Health and 3Cs (Care, Counselling and Contraception) to General Surgery, and much more.

In planning the new department we have spent time thinking about 'joined up working' - to ensure that services link together wherever possible. This would mean, for example, that diabetic clinics would work at the same time as dietetics and podiatry.

We started with a real vision of what services were needed for the people of Sudbury, and that has led our planning throughout.

Paul Thacker
Outpatients Manager
West Suffolk Hospital

New models of care

The table highlights changes to the provision of beds as a result of building the new Sudbury Community Hospital and developing community services. The proposed service provision is based on the estimated needs of people living in Sudbury and the surrounding villages.

	Current bed usage at Walnuttree Hospital	Proposed service provision in Sudbury
Inpatient places Sudbury		
GP and consultant beds (includes respite)	18	
Rehabilitation	23	40 GP and consultant beds
Palliative	5	
Waiting for nursing or residential care home	18	0
Sub-total	64	40
Bed equivalence of increased community teams		14
Bed equivalence of resolving delayed discharge		18
Sub-total	64	72
Elderly mentally ill	15	18 Nursing home places
OVERALL TOTAL	79	90

- On average 18 beds are currently occupied by patients who no longer require nursing care but cannot be discharged from Walnuttree Hospital as they are waiting for places in nursing or residential care homes.
- The West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust, Suffolk Health Authority and Suffolk Social Services are working together on a joint solution to the problem of delayed discharges. The provision of more places in appropriate nursing and residential care home settings will release 18 inpatient beds.
- Plans to strengthen community teams by increasing the number of staff from 36 to 53 will mean that more patients can receive high quality rehabilitation treatment at home rather than in hospital. This additional investment in community services will reduce demand by 14 inpatient beds. This change in service provision is entirely consistent with best practices and recent Government policy.

Feedback

If you have any comments, views or questions for Dave Poulter, Project Manager for the new Sudbury Community Hospital, please send them c/o Walnuttree Hospital, Walnuttree Lane, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 6BE.