



Up & About FACILITIES SUPPLEMENT

NEWS FROM THE WEST SUFFOLK HOSPITALS NHS TRUST FACILITIES DEPARTMENT



West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust has embarked on a challenging, multi-million pound five-year development plan, which will transform many existing facilities and provide additional treatment centres to further improve patient care. It details both the funded, short term (two years) and longer term (five years) schemes and the proposed site development plan is on display in the main reception area of the hospital.

To more fully explain how some of the short term schemes fit into the Trust's overall capital investment programme and report on progress, we have produced this special Facilities supplement to Up and About. It includes news about the separate projects that comprise

the Diagnostic and Treatment Centre, completion of the first phase of the impressive Education Centre, re-provision of Occupational Therapy, modernisation of the Maternity Unit, expansion of cancer care services and our plans to ease the car parking problems.

Information about all the schemes in the capital investment programme will be available on-line from 24 February when the Facilities web site goes live at www.wsufftrust.org.uk/facilities.

In the meantime, if you'd like more information please contact Terry Robertson or me in the Facilities Directorate.

Steve Moore, Director of Facilities.



An artist's impression of the new two-storey extension and the existing Day Surgery Unit

The Diagnostic and Treatment Centre

The creation of a £5.6 million Diagnostic and Treatment Centre (DTC) is one of the major features of the development plan. Approval of the funding bid to the Department of Health was achieved in September 2002 and the new DTC is scheduled to be operational by November of this year, helping to reduce patient waiting times and waiting lists. Once completed the DTC will be used not only by West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust, but also by neighbouring trusts in the delivery of patient services.

The DTC comprises a number of complementary projects including:

- Construction of a third Ultra Clean Theatre
- An extension to the Day Surgery Unit, including two new operating theatres and ophthalmic centre

A number of other developments that will increase the size of the hospital are also underway, including:

- Creation of a temporary ward
- Creation of a temporary theatre
- Upgrade of G8 ward as an Integrated Care Unit

Operating a new approach to patient care

The Trust needs to provide planned and booked care for patients, which will not be affected by the unpredictable demand for emergency care, and to give patients as much choice as possible about a time for surgery.

The Diagnostic and Treatment Centre (DTC) project is dedicated to reducing the time patients wait for:

- cataract extraction
- hip and knee replacement

When fully implemented the Trust aims to do an additional 800 hip and knee replacements and 2000 extra cataract operations.

A key element of the new Diagnostic and Treatment Centre is a two-storey extension to the rear of the existing Day Surgery Unit, comprising two additional operating theatres at ground level, and a full ophthalmic outpatient clinic on the first floor.

Due for completion by November 2003, this purpose-built unit will bring all the eye services under one roof. By creating two theatres used for eye surgery and day surgery, with an

adjacent cataract assessment unit on the ground floor, the hospital will be able to carry out the additional cataract operations. These procedures are normally day surgery operations, with patients admitted, operated on and discharged within four hours.

Commenting on the Day Surgery Unit, Ophthalmic Consultant Tony Vivian said: "On the first floor, the novel design of the outpatient facilities will allow much more capacity to see patients, reducing the time patients wait to be seen. The outpatient facility also includes a laser suite and minor operations theatre, and the building itself has been designed to ensure that maximum use is made of natural light, an important factor when dealing with patients with impaired vision."

Moving the eye department to dedicated facilities will free up space in the main hospital outpatient department, theatres and wards.

To serve this new clinic and operating theatre an extra 50 parking spaces will be provided behind the recently completed Wedgwood building adjoining car park C.

For more information please contact Steve Moore on ext 3973 or Terry Robertson on ext 3651.

Temporary Theatre

While the two additional day surgery theatres are under construction in the DTC, a temporary theatre will be used for day surgery and ophthalmic surgery. The new unit, located in front of the Day Surgery Unit, will be ready for use in early February 2003.

By making it possible to carry out more day surgery eye operations in this temporary theatre, beds will be freed in other parts of the hospital for other surgical procedures to take place.

For more information, please contact Steve Moore on ext 3973 or Terry Robertson on ext 3651.

Ultra Clean Theatre 9

Another essential element of the Diagnostic and Treatment Centre project is the creation of a third Ultra Clean Theatre. Currently West Suffolk Hospital has eight operating theatres within the main building.

Ultra Clean Theatre 9 is to be created adjacent to the existing Theatre 8 in the remaining courtyard space. The design will be similar to that of Theatre 8, which was completed and handed over in early 2002. Construction of the new Ultra Clean Theatre is scheduled to start at the end of January 2003, with a completion date of August 2003.

An additional 800 hip and knee replacement operations will be able to

be carried out each year by the provision of an extra Ultra Clean Theatre, helping to make a significant impact on reducing waiting times for such procedures.

Design of this new theatre will require its construction on stilts at first floor level, with the space below being available for development as a storage facility, either now or at a later date when funding is available.

To complement the additional orthopaedic procedures to be carried out in Ultra Clean Theatre 9, the Trust is also planning to develop a new orthopaedic outpatients' department.

The exact location for such a facility has not yet been identified, but will almost certainly be within the main hospital building, possibly as a development of a previously vacated area or internal courtyard.

For more information, please contact Steve Moore on ext 3973 or Terry Robertson on ext 3651.



Work in progress on the temporary theatre

Creating extra bed capacity

Creating additional operating theatres, using more day surgery facilities and making it possible to treat more patients within the main hospital, puts pressure on the Trust to provide more inpatient bed capacity.

Progress has already been made in the shape of the 40 beds created within the re-furnished G8 Integrated Care Unit that opened in December. In just twelve weeks main contractors, Baker Construction, transformed the vacated ward to create the new facility.

The unit is the result of an innovative partnership between West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust, Suffolk West Primary Care Trust and Suffolk Social Care. It provides care for patients who have passed beyond the acute phase of their treatment and are being prepared for returning home or going into a nursing home with further community support.

It gives patients active and appropriate rehabilitation in a focused setting, enabling them to leave hospital fitter and better prepared to resume their lives outside hospital.

For more information please contact Steve Moore on ext 3973 or Terry Robertson on ext 3651.

“ We are a new project working across the boundaries of primary, secondary and social healthcare provision, working very much in partnership to make sure we are delivering seamless patient care.

“The care which we provide is aimed to be timely, nurse-led care, delivered in a supportive and caring environment, which will hopefully facilitate a smooth transfer for patients, either home or to alternative care.”

Commenting on the Integrated Care Unit, Ward Manager Jane Parkinson

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Temporary Ward

Alongside the projects to add to the hospital's overall bed capacity, a temporary ward is to be provided near the entrance to the Joyce Cockram Day Hospital. This will cater for the additional operating procedures being planned once the ophthalmic surgical procedures move from the main theatres to the Day Surgery Unit.

Work on the 30-bed temporary ward has started and should be completed by April this year. The size of this unit required its location near the Joyce Cockram Day Hospital, which is also convenient for connection to all utilities, as well as providing ease of access for portering, meals, linen, cleaning and proximity to the hospital's main circulation corridors.

For more information please contact Steve Moore on ext 3973 or Terry Robertson on ext 3651.

The new Education Centre takes shape out of the Drummond Centre



The Education Centre

The launch at West Suffolk Hospital in 2001 of the Cambridge Graduate Course in Medicine provided the impetus for the Trust's new Education Centre, the first phase of which is due to open in February 2003.

Created by converting and extending the former Drummond Centre, the Education Centre will provide facilities for education and training for all staff in the Trust in a centralised location on the West Suffolk Hospital site.

Facilities incorporated within Phase 1 of the Education Centre include:

- Postgraduate Centre
- Meeting rooms
- Library and IT Resource Centre
- Lecture Theatre
- University of Cambridge Graduate Course in Medicine
- Suffolk College, School of Health Nurse Education
- Clinical Skills training
- General training

- Research and Development Office.

The co-location of these services will enable joint working and multidisciplinary education and training, while the space formerly used for these purposes in the main hospital will be re-utilised to enhance clinical service provision. The first phase of the project is due for completion at the end of January and should be fully operational by 17 February.

The second phase of the Education Centre project will consist of a state-of-the-art 186-seat lecture theatre, expected to be completed in the autumn of 2003. This will provide a facility that is currently lacking in Bury St Edmunds, and which it is intended should be made available to the local community as well as for healthcare staff within West Suffolk.

For more information, please contact Steve Moore on ext 3973.

Midwifery Modernisation Programme

Under Government proposals for the Modernisation of Maternity Units, West Suffolk Hospitals Trust was awarded funding to upgrade its antenatal and postnatal ward facilities.

As part of a £700,000 investment, ward F11 has undergone a complete refurbishment, including the provision of new bathrooms, redecoration and general improvements to the ward environment.

In addition, services for fathers and families visiting the wards have been improved, while the mothers will benefit from the provision of piped oxygen to each bed, and also the installation of "patient power" to all beds, enabling the individual use of laptops, televisions, telephones and other personal equipment.

The midwifery modernisation programme was completed on 29 January and the refurbished facility

occupied later the same week.

Patricia Davis, Head of Midwifery, is delighted with the improvements, which she feels will facilitate the provision of high-quality care to women and their families, while also greatly enhancing the quality of life enjoyed on the ward by patients and staff alike.

If you would like more information please contact Susan Rush-Hall on ext 3220.



Parking plans

The frustrations caused by ever-increasing pressure on limited parking spaces at West Suffolk Hospital are well-known to staff and visitors alike, but work is underway by the Facilities Directorate to address these issues and improve traffic flow on the site.

There are currently 1000 parking spaces at the Hardwick Lane hospital site – almost 300 more than when the hospital opened in 1974 – but these are still insufficient to cope with demand from staff, patients and visitors.

A further 300 parking spaces are in the pipeline. Planning consent is awaited for the first 100-space phase adjacent to car park C, and if granted should be available for use by March.

For more information, please contact Steve Moore on ext 3793.

Partnership with Macmillan to expand cancer care services

In a joint project with Macmillan Cancer Care, West Suffolk Hospitals Trust is to further extend the services it provides to oncology and haematology patients in a new department to be developed alongside its existing facilities on ward G1.

In addition to some refurbishment of the existing ward area, the project will include a new extension to provide facilities for new day and outpatients, as well as extra inpatient rooms.

The new unit will enable the provision of a co-ordinated and holistic service that is to be focused on the complete needs of the haematology and oncology patient, offering treatment, information, support and access to specialist services under one roof.

Construction is due to begin in summer 2003 for completion in early 2004.

For more information please contact Sue Vincent on ext 3359.

Occupational Therapy

Conversion of the area previously occupied by Occupational Therapy in the Joyce Cockram Day Hospital, and changes in the provision of some of the therapy services has led to the re-provision of Occupational Therapy facilities.

The new development, adjacent to the existing Physiotherapy department, uses space more effectively to improve patient flow within the unit and provide a more aesthetically pleasing environment for patients and staff, enhancing rehabilitation.

The assessment suites are also being refurbished and the décor in some of the adjacent offices and waiting areas is being refreshed. Work is underway and due for completion mid February.

For more information, please contact Jill Canning on ext 2751.

This special Facilities supplement to Up and About has briefly outlined some of the developments taking place at West Suffolk Hospital. More details about all the projects will be available on the Facilities web site from 24 February on www.wsufftrust.org.uk/facilities. The plans are available for viewing in the hospital's main entrance reception area and on the notice board in Time Out. Alternatively if you have any questions please contact Terry Robertson in the Facilities team on ext 3651.