

Ashford & St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust

Extraordinary Meeting of the Trust Board

Tuesday 9th March 2004, 6.30pm, Lecture Theatre, St Peter's Hospital

Present

Mr Clive Thompson	Chairman
Mr Glenn Douglas	Chief Executive
Ms Jayne Connelly	Director of Strategic Development
Mr Nick Hulme	Director of Operations
Mr Keith Mansfield	Director of Finance and Information Services
Ms Sian Thomas	Director of Human Resources
Mr Michael Bailey	Non-executive Director
Mr Peter Field	Non-executive Director
Mrs Mary Riley	Non-executive Director
Mr Rodney Gritten	North Surrey PCT Representative

1. Apologies of absence

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Mike Baxter, Medical Director, Mrs Joyce Winson Smith, Director of Nursing, Mrs Jenny Murray, Non-executive Director and Mrs Liz Brooks, Non-executive Director.

2. To receive the report on the public consultation on the reconfiguration of services at Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust

The Chairman detailed the background to the proposed reconfiguration of services. It had become apparent two years ago of the need for reconfiguration. During 2002 there had been extensive periods of discussion with stakeholders to begin to agree the proposals in principle.

The Trust has been through a period of extensive public consultation, 75 meetings in total, of which 18 were public meetings. There have been a considerable number of stakeholders meetings also.

The paper tabled at the meeting summarises the Trust's response which will be submitted to North Surrey PCT for discussion at their Trust Board meeting on 15th March. The formal response to consultation will be prepared by the PCT, they will also respond to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and present an outline to Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority in 1-2 months time.

The Chairman commended all who had taken part in the consultation for making valued contributions to the process. He thanked, in particular, Jayne Connelly, Director of Strategic Development, members of the public, and representative bodies. He also thanked the press who fully reported both sides of the debate. All have commented favourably on the process itself, regarding it as having been fair and open.

Ms Jayne Connelly, Director of Strategic Development, presented to the meeting the feedback from "Shaping the future of our local health services" – a public consultation.

The consultation process finished at the end of January following a 15 week period. A wide range of meetings had been held with stakeholders as well as staff. 1600 views had been given, 220 written responses received, 193 from members of the public. Three questions were asked:

Do you agree with the overall vision for local health care?

Do you support the preferred option and what are your views on the preferred option?

Do you feel there is an option we haven't considered?

Ms Connelly summarised the Trust's vision for healthcare, detailing the three preferred options for reconfiguration.

Areas of concern have been identified as public transport and car parking, access to emergency care, primary and community services, and access to childrens and maternity services at Ashford.

Ms Connelly detailed the proposals to resolve these particular issues.

She reiterated the extended role of paramedic staff who are able to assess patients at the scene of incident, carry out ECGs, and dispense drugs. Patients can then be taken to a specialist centre such as St Peter's, to be treated by a cardiology team with full facilities available where the patient's outcome would be considerably better. The President of the British Association of Emergency Medicine supports this proposal but has recommended that strict protocols for ambulance services be put in place.

The Trust Board recommends support for option 3b and commitment to the following actions:

- To address the risks identified in relation to access to emergency services and in particular the need for protocols and effective communication both with service partners and the wider public on this issue
- To work closely with West Middlesex Hospital and Hounslow PCT to develop co-ordinated services for the Feltham population in relation to older people, rehabilitation, out of hours and chronic disease management
- To explore whether children's surgery can be retained at Ashford for identified specialties, as long as this can be done safely in the future. To share with PCT commissioners this service to inform PCT decision making

Ms Connelly identified recent improvements to the midwifery service and the Trust's commitment to consider the viability of a midwifery led unit on the Ashford site.

The Trust is committed to working with the PCTs and transport commissioners and providers on taking forward the transport action plan to improve access to both the Ashford and St Peter's site and improve car parking arrangements.

The Chairman asked for questions from the Board.

Mr Bailey, Non-executive Director, commented that the transport access problems must be addressed by the local transport providers, they are not purely a Trust problem. The Chairman replied that he had written to the Chief Executive of Surrey County Council proposing a means by which all parties can get together to determine better co-ordination of existing services and meet the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to create an 'integrated' provision.

Mrs Riley, Non-executive Director, asked for clarification of the "crash" service at Ashford. Ms Connelly replied that all patients will be assessed for suitability for day surgery but that the service must be able to cope in any emergencies. A Resident Medical Officer will be on site 24 hours a day, he will be supported by qualified nursing staff and a GP service. Patients, when stabilised would then be transferred to the St Peter's site.

The Chairman asked for questions from members of the public.

The Board was asked how Ashford would cope should there be a major disaster at Heathrow Airport. It was advised that since 2000, the Emergency Department at Ashford had only been designated as a support unit to St Peter's. The other main receiving hospitals are Hillingdon, West Middlesex and further afield. The Ambulance Service, in conjunction with the Fire and Police Services, would set up a control centre to manage the whole response.

The Board were commended by Mr John Murphy on the process and thoroughness of the consultation but asked whether all users of the services should have been contacted for their response, and how does the Board intend to communicate which hospital patients should attend in the event of an emergency. The Chairman replied that clear communication is essential and that full information in the form of leaflets and press releases will be considered. Mr Bailey reiterated that it must be made very clear where patients should present for emergency treatment.

The Board were asked of the provision of medical records across both sites. The Director of Operations replied that the Trust will be moving to electronic patient records very shortly which can be accessed on any terminal within the Trust.

The Board were asked as to the future of the Assessment and Treatment Centre at Ashford currently led by Dr Maria Cox. The Chief Executive advised that any service must be sustainable and not dependent on any one member of staff. The Trust is fully supportive of the ATC service and is currently liaising with the Geriatric Society on how the best possible services can continue.

Mr Field, Non-executive Director, asked that an ongoing action report be presented regularly to the Trust Board on the proposals. This was **AGREED**.

Mr Bailey, Non-executive Director, asked that the Board has a commitment to open, clear communication, identifying the stage by stage processes. This was **AGREED**.

The Board **CONFIRMED ITS SUPPORT** for Option 3b and commitment to the following actions:

Emergency Services

To address the risks identified in relation to access to emergency services and in particular the need for protocols and effective communication both with service partners and with the wider public on this issue

Children's Services

To explore whether children's day surgery can be maintained at Ashford for certain specialties, as long as this can be done safely in the future. To share with PCT commissioners the financial implications of providing this service to inform PCT decision making.

Rehabilitation Services

To work closely with West Middlesex Hospital and with Hounslow PCT to develop co-ordinated services for the Feltham population in relation to older people, rehabilitation, out of hours and chronic disease management.

Maternity Services

To consult with staff, service users, the local public, commissioners and GPs on the viability of a midwifery led unit at Ashford, based on the review of the functioning of the proposed midwifery led unit at St. Peter's Hospital and evidence from other midwifery led units.

Transport

To work with PCTs and transport commissioners and providers on taking forward the transport action plan.