

**Hampshire Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee**

**Briefing paper**

**Title:** Building Better Emergency Care Programme (BBEC)

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**Purpose of the paper :** To provide an update on the Building Better Emergency Care Programme at Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust (PHU).

**Brief summary:**  
 PHU has received capital investment to build a new Emergency Department (ED) which will help us deliver a new model of care to our patients to provide safer, timely and effective care.

The Full Business Case was approved by NHS England and work on the demolition of the East Staff Car Park has been completed, and we are now in the construction phase for the new ED.

**Background:**  
 Transforming our emergency care pathways in partnership with local health and care organisations remains a key priority for PHU and the HIOW health and social care system.

We are working together with our partners to design a sustainable clinical model to deliver patient-centred, safe, effective, efficient and timely emergency care and the associated clinical, workforce and estates changes that are required.

The programme is working across the organisation and with health and care partners to tackle some of the longstanding challenges that can cause delays for patients at our Emergency Department.

Our ED is more than 40 years old and the constrained size and layout of the department has limited our ability to make improvements to the way care is delivered and implement best practice. The physical condition does not provide a good enough experience for patients, visitors, or staff.

In recognition of these challenges, the Trust was awarded a £58.3m capital investment for new emergency care facilities at Queen Alexandra Hospital in December 2018.

**Update:**



**Construction update:** All preparatory works have taken place and groundworks and foundation are now 75% completed. Over 3,000 tonnes of concrete has been recycled and used to build the groundworks and foundations of the new building.

In February a 37 metre static Tower Crane was positioned on site to lift structures into place during the build. The crane will be on site until December 2023.

The main structure of the building is now being erected and is on schedule for a Winter 2024 opening.

**Clinical model update:** Our Clinical Strategy Group was reconvened in March 2023. This is multi-disciplinary group with the aim to design and test processes and pathways in preparation for the move into the new department. A number of workstreams feed into this group and cover areas such as imaging, communication systems, resus and paediatrics.

We have also been using our improvement methodology to look at the patient journey through our Urgent and Emergency care pathways. There is trust wide work ongoing to support and improve the experience of patients seen in the ED as well as how we support safe and timely discharge out of hospital. This work looks to improve our current ways of working but will also be relevant to the new ED. Some of the improvements seen have released time available for clinical staff to spend on direct patient care, which is being rolled out throughout the trust. We have also seen the turnaround time of discharging medications become more consistently less than 90 minutes. Multiple other areas of work are being focussed on to help support us deliver our strategy to our local population.

#### **Engagement update November 2022 - May 2023:**

- In January 2023, a cutting of the sod ceremony was held with staff from ED, key stakeholders and MPs. This gave us the opportunity to talk through the plans and progress and listen to feedback.
- We have two patient representatives who sit on our BBEC Board meeting and provide feedback and advice on key elements such as signage, layout and colours.
- Our social media channels contain regular updates on the work.
- Stakeholder updates and news releases have been issued on the changes and progress described in this update.

#### **Timeline:**

- October 2022 – enabling works, final design and demolition
- January 2023 – Construction begins.
- Jan – June 2023 – Groundwork and Foundations
- May 23 – May 2024 – Structure and Cladding
- June – October 2024 – Commissioning
- October 2024 – Construction completes
- November 2024 – ED operational.

