

Update Briefing for:
Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Hampshire Together: Modernising our Hospitals and Health Services)
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Summary

This report provides an overview of the *Hampshire Together: Modernising our Hospitals and Health Services* programme and the progress we are making as we prepare a business case and proposals for consultation in early 2021.

In addition to this report, a presentation will be provided for members of the committee as part of the meeting.

Background

Hampshire Together is a programme that involves NHS organisations and local authorities across north and mid Hampshire (Alton, Andover, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Winchester and the surrounding areas). It is being led by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership of Clinical Commissioning Groups and West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group, in partnership with Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. It involves all organisations providing health and social care across the area working together to develop a health, wellbeing and care service so that everyone in north and mid Hampshire can access high-quality, timely and sustainable health care as close to home as possible.

The programme is looking at the best way to organise services to meet the population's changing health needs and to adapt the way some services are delivered so they can continue to meet best practice and clinical quality guidelines, and are sustainable for the long-term. To meet these challenges the local NHS has been exploring the possibility of centralising some of the most specialist hospital services for the sickest people on one site, rather than spread across two main sites (Basingstoke and Winchester) as they currently are. Consolidating the most specialist services in one place would mean a better use of senior clinicians, who are currently spread too thinly across hospital sites. It would also mean clinical teams treat more patients with particular conditions and illnesses, helping to better maintain their specialist expertise.

The programme also includes the potential for the construction of a brand new hospital as part of the Government's Health Infrastructure Plan. Hampshire Hospitals was last year named as one of the trusts chosen to receive capital funding as part of the Department of Health and Social Care's plan, which is designed to support 40 hospital building projects across the country between 2025 and 2030.

Public Engagement

Initial public engagement activity was held between 1 June and 7 August 2020, based on a listening document (see Appendix 1) that set out the challenges facing our health and care system, the opportunities provided by the Hampshire Together programme and the decisions that will need to be taken in order to maintain safe, high quality, sustainable services for the long-term.

Feedback received during engagement was independently analysed and a summary, including a breakdown of the key themes identified, can be found at Appendix 2.

Options Development

A process of options development began in late August 2020. Doctors, nurses and other clinicians from north and mid Hampshire held a series of conversations and virtual workshops to look at how health and care services could be designed for the future. More than 100 people, including current patients with experience of using hospital services, clinicians from across the health and care system, and representatives of various groups from the community took part. They initially developed eight options, or clinical models, for the way services could be provided in the future.

During this process, it became clear that centralising key services for the sickest patients on one site, an acute centralised hospital, scored highly when considering the options for redesigning services.

This acute centralised hospital could be supported by a main local hospital containing, as a minimum, a 24/7 urgent treatment centre, step down inpatient care for patients requiring services such as physiotherapy, midwife-led maternity care, and diagnostic tests such as MRI scans and blood tests.

Further work has been undertaken to review and evaluate each option in detail, while also considering additional configurations for future services. Options have been assessed with regards to clinical quality, patient experience and outcomes as well as the impact on staffing levels, the amount each option would cost and affordability, accessibility and deliverability, to inform the development of a shortlist, which will be made public prior to consultation.

Shortlisted locations

After a comprehensive search for sites across Alton, Andover, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Winchester and the surrounding areas was carried out, two locations have been identified as potential sites for a proposed new acute centralised hospital.

The first potential site is located between Basingstoke and Winchester, near to junction seven of the M3, with the other being based on the current site of Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital. If an acute centralised hospital was to be built at either of these locations, significant investment would also be made at Royal Hampshire County Hospital with a view to it becoming a main local hospital.

The locations for an acute centralised hospital were identified following an extensive site selection study, which was carried out across the entire Hampshire Hospitals catchment area to identify suitable parcels of land. Pieces of land that were large enough to house a hospital and health campus were then ranked according to how they performed against a total of 36 weighted criteria before negotiations began to assess their availability, price and the current owners' willingness to sell.

Next steps

An options development group including clinicians and patients has been meeting on a weekly basis to discuss the clinical options. Through a clear process of evaluation against a set of agreed criteria and following a further options development workshop, the options that should be carried through for inclusion in a Pre-Consultation Business Case (PCBC) have been drawn up.

The PCBC is currently going through Stage Two assurance with our regulator, NHS England / Improvement before being finalised and considered in full by North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group and West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group governing bodies in a 'decision to consult' meeting prior to the launch of public consultation.

Consultation

Public consultation is currently planned for early 2021 and a consultation plan is available at Appendix 3, which we would welcome the committee's comments and feedback on before it is finalised.

Of course, as well as conducting a full public consultation on our proposals for change, we will also be seeking to consult directly with local authorities on our proposals via this Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This is as per our Section 244 duty under the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012), which requires NHS bodies to consult relevant local authority overview and scrutiny committees on any proposals for substantial variations or substantial developments of health services.

A meeting of this committee is likely to be required in the first week of January. During this meeting, we would like to give members an overview of our proposals, prior to public consultation beginning. We would like to suggest a third meeting midway through the consultation period to hear members' views, answer questions, and update the committee on the progress of the public consultation. We would then seek a further meeting at the end of the consultation period, once we have an independent report of the consultation findings to share with the committee. We would like to agree regular meetings to keep the committee updated through the next stage of our work and preparation of our 'decision-making business case', before the CCGs make a final decision on their proposals for change.

We are keen to hear from members in today's meeting (18 December 2020) about how you would like us to directly consult with you in addition to what we have outlined above. We would be happy to note any specific issues or areas of interest that you would like additional detailed information and discussion on during the course of our consultation with this committee.

Scrutiny process

We contacted the chairs of the health overview and scrutiny committees at Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, West Berkshire Council, Portsmouth City Council, Isle of Wight Council, Wiltshire Council and Surrey County Council to offer a briefing and request that they consider being part of a joint committee.

As an indicator of the possible impact on the public and health services in each area, patient flow data was provided detailing the flow of patients from north and mid Hampshire to acute providers over the last three years and the number of patients who have accessed Hampshire Hospitals services over the last three years by local authority area.

Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council have agreed that the proposed changes would be substantial and will form a joint committee, with Surrey County Council attending as standing observers. All of the other authorities declined the opportunity to be involved.

Recommendations

The committee is asked to:

- (i) Note this progress report.
- (ii) Agree how the committee would like to be consulted with on our proposals for change. Our recommendation would be for there to be a further meeting in the first week of January, in advance of the start of our public consultation; followed by a mid-point review of the consultation; with post-consultation meetings in the weeks following the consultation period and leading up to the CCGs' decision-making meeting on the final chosen solution.
- (iii) Request any information that they would like shared in advance of or as part of the next or future meetings
- (iv) Share comments and feedback on our plans for public consultation, considering whether the committee supports it as a plan for a full and meaningful public consultation.

Appendices

1. Hampshire Together: Modernising our Hospitals and Health Services Listening Document
2. Engagement Report Summary
3. Strategic Consultation Plan