
Meeting: Central Bedfordshire Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 July 2013

Subject: Biggleswade Hospital

Report of: John Rooke, Chief Operating Officer, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Summary: The attached paper summarises the findings of a joint review between Bedfordshire CCG and Central Bedfordshire Council into the provision in the community of healthcare and social care resources

Advising Officer: John Rooke, Chief Operating Officer, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Contact Officer:

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Supporting and caring for an ageing population

Financial:

1. This report includes an extract of the model for using existing resources and the ambition to investigate joint commissioning between NHS and local authority as a mechanism for improving efficiencies

Legal:

2. Not Applicable

Risk Management:

3. Not Applicable

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. Not Applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. The implementation of the findings of this review will involve appropriate and due regard to the CCGs duty to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and its equality objectives.

Community Safety:

6. Not Applicable.

Sustainability:

7. Not Applicable.

Procurement:

8. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note actions and recommendations relating to Biggleswade Hospital from the community beds review and the joint investigation by BCCG and SEPT.
2. Note the implementation of the recommendations and actions through the contractual relationship between the CCG and SEPT

Background

9. Prior to the recent reforms in the NHS (and preceding the introduction of Health & Wellbeing Boards), leaders in healthcare and social care organisations from across Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Bedford Borough met regularly at the Health & Social Care Board. One of the priorities in early 2012 for that Board was the review of community beds across the three local authority areas.
10. The “community beds review” was subsequently undertaken by staff from NHS Bedfordshire (now NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group), Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council. The result of this review was the production of two review reports, each one specific to a local authority area and tailored to the local nuances of each geographic patch.

In summary the main recommendation of the Community Beds Review relating to Biggleswade Hospital are;

- a) The criteria for admission to Biggleswade Hospital will be amended to reflect the need to cater for people recovering from ill health, including those that are non-weight bearing
- b) The new service will mirror that provided at both the Houghton Regis Short Stay Medical Unit and the Step up, Step Down Reablement service at Greenacre
- c) The facility has 29 beds arranged in two units and could be remodelled to provide the necessary accommodation to support rehabilitation and reablement

The full model and recommendations relating to Biggleswade Hospital are shown in 1.0-2.7 of the main document

11. During the development of the community beds review a number of issues had arisen in relation to access in particular to the beds in Biggleswade Hospital. There were complaints about the criteria to access the beds, both from patients and GPs but also hospital and local authority partners and local MPs. In February 2013 South Essex Partnership NHS Trust (SEPT) were issued with a contractual 'performance notice' by the CCG for the continued issues relating to access.
12. The issuing of the performance notice led to a joint investigation into the issues by the CCG and SEPT and a final report was agreed in June 13..

In summary the main recommendations of the joint investigation are;

- a) Maintain the status quo until such time as the future proposals regarding community inpatient services are considered and agreed
- b) Agree the process for transforming services, including the process by which consultation will be undertaken and proposals taken through health overview and scrutiny and timescales for the same where required.
- c) Review and agree the Admission Criteria 2009 & 2011 versions with clinical representation from the Commissioner and Provider and vary the revised criteria into the contract as a 2013 version.
- d) Build on the detail in the draft service development and improvement plan for 2013/14 so as to agree any changes to community services further to the bed review undertaken by Commissioners and to agree the steps required to effect change and agree timescales for agreed actions, alongside a consideration of the impact on other community services.

The full list of recommendations is shown in 3.0 in the main document.

13. BCCG is currently in discussion and negotiation with South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) regarding the implementation of the model arising from the beds review and the specific recommendations of the joint investigation. This includes the clinical criteria led by GPs from the Ivel Valley Locality. Changes are being reflected in contractual arrangements and the actions managed through the contract monitoring meetings.

Appendices

Appendix A – Biggleswade Hospital Update