

Seizing the Future

developing a strategic direction for the next five-years

July/August 2008 briefing

Welcome to the Seizing the Future newsletter - bringing you the latest news and developments as we work towards establishing a strategic vision for the Trust for the next five years.

Progress to date

The second phase of the project is now reaching its conclusion. Since May, work on the project has been focused on considering the different options for delivering services in the future and providing the best possible care to patients over the next five years.

This phase has included a huge amount of work and debate which initially produced 49 different individual service options which were shortlisted and brought together into five 'cluster options'. Further short listing and appraisal work has been undertaken by the project's Steering Group and Clinical Reference Group to leave three options for consideration.

The three options were presented at the Trust Board meeting at the end of July.

The Options

Option A: the status quo. Work completed as part of the Seizing the Future programme has demonstrated that this option would not be sustainable in the long term as the Trust aspires to providing the best care for patients over the next five years and beyond. However, this option needs to be included in the proposals as a basis for comparison.

Options B and C are a variation on the 'two acute sites plus' model which would see the Trust concentrate acute services on two sites and develop a range of services on the third site.

Acute care in Options B and C:

- Acute care
- Integrated Emergency Care (A&E, Medicine)
- ITU/HDU
- Acute trauma and orthopaedic surgery
- Acute and major in-patient elective surgery
- Acute stroke
- Consultant led obstetrics

- Acute and inpatient gynaecology
- Full Out patients and diagnostics
- ENT acute and inpatient at DMH
- Plastics at UHND
- Paediatrics – emergency and in -patient

Option B then includes the following services from the third site:

- Urgent care centre
- Local services
 - Full range of Out patient and diagnostics
 - Step down/intermediate care for local residents
 - Midwifery led unit
- Trustwide services
 - All day case surgical activity
 - Cataract centre
 - Primary lower limb arthroplasty
 - Colorectal screening centre

Option C includes all those listed for Option B but would also include exciting opportunities for additional capacity around managing urgent medical patients, urgent paediatric assessment and step down and rehabilitation facilities.

As Option B plus:

- Local services
 - Medical Rapid Assessment Centre for GP referral (10:00-20:00)
 - Paediatric urgent assessment
- Trustwide services
 - Centre of rehabilitation excellence
 - Step down/intermediate care

No decisions have yet been made about the roles of individual sites in the different options. A detailed piece of work is still ongoing to examine the impact of the different options on each of the three main sites - Durham, Bishop Auckland and Darlington.

Gateway review

At the end of July the Trust was visited by a team from the Office of Government and Commerce to undergo a Gateway review.

The Trust has received a positive report following the review which concluded that “the Seizing the Future programme has made sound progress”.

The review was a way of checking that the processes throughout the project have been robust and will stand up to external scrutiny and that there are no significant gaps.

The report stated: “Overall we feel that the FT has a good strategic grasp of the issues and workload ahead. Together with a strong and close relationship with the commissioning PCT, we are confident that the Trusts will be able to complete successfully the next phase of activity.”

Stakeholder event

The Trust is hosting an event for stakeholders on Friday 22 August to carry out further appraisal work on the three options.

Stakeholders will be invited to take part in an option appraisal exercise to assess the options in terms of the four key benefit criteria identified earlier in the review by the project’s Steering Group. The four benefit criteria are:

- Quality – a better and less fragmented experience for patients
- Access – timely and convenient access to care
- Resources - enabling the Trust to recruit, retain and train the best staff
- Sustainability - taking advantage of innovation and modern medical practice to give a sustainably high performance against rising standards of care

Invites and further information will be circulated to stakeholders over the coming days.

Next steps

Further analysis and work will continue to examine the impact of the options on the Trust’s sites and to support a decision on the role of each hospital.

In September, the three options will be presented for consideration at a meeting of the PCT Board, and if approved, will form the basis of the public consultation beginning in October.

Any questions

Please send queries to seizingthefuture@cddft.nhs.uk - or use the message board on the Seizing the Future website – <http://seizingthefuture.hub.uk.com>