

# Seizing the Future

*developing a strategic direction for the next five-years*

## June 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.

## Options update

Earlier this month the Steering Group and Clinical Reference Group (CRG) both held meetings to discuss the shortlist of “cluster” options, outlined in the last newsletter. These were:

**Cluster Option 1:** No change

**Cluster Option 2:** Two sites leading on acute hospital care

**Cluster Option 3:** Two sites leading on acute hospital care, plus a third site with options providing a combination of services for which proposals include elective surgery, midwife led maternity care, specialist rehabilitation, selective inpatients. 24 hour emergency provision would be provided on each of these sites.

**Cluster Option 4:** one acute site, one elective site and one community hospital

**Cluster Option 5:** one acute site, two community facilities/polyclinics and midwife led unit(s)

The ‘cluster options’ have now also been assessed against the three hurdle criteria ‘clinical safety’, ‘affordability’ and ‘feasibility’.

The Clinical Reference Group agreed that Cluster Options 4 and 5 should be hurdled out of the process principally because of the loss of patients to other trusts if these options were implemented. Cluster Option 2 was also hurdled out as it was not feasible or desirable for the Trust to close completely one of its sites.

It was agreed that more work needed to be done to develop Option 3, considering in more depth the services provided on the third site. Option 1 needed to be retained for purposes of comparison.

Further discussions and work are now taking place to consider the different services which could be delivered from the third site.

Considerations include:

- A specialist rehabilitation service for patients as part of a new Trust-wide model for acute hospital care in the county
- Making the third site the principal site for planned surgery
- Intermediate care beds for patients ready to leave hospital but needing more community hospital type care

No decision has been made about which hospital would be the 'third' site.

Following the Clinical Reference Group meeting, the Steering Group met to discuss next steps. The Steering Group has commissioned Matrix (the consultants supporting the programme) to carry out a robust 'three way' analysis to look at each of the Trust's main hospitals (Darlington Memorial, University Hospital of North Durham and Bishop Auckland General Hospital) as the possible 'third' site. The three way analysis will consider the impact of each site being the third site in terms of:

- Health outcomes and experience for patients
- Capacity to deliver services
- Impact on the sustainability of Trust business under patient choice

### **Consultation**

Work has begun to consider the consultation process.

Following discussions between the Trust, the SHA and the PCT and taking account of new guidance, the County Durham PCT will lead the consultation process. The formal consultation period is now expected to begin in October 2008 through to January 2009.

### **Open staff meetings**

A further series of open staff meetings is starting next week as follows:

Mon 30/6	12:30	DMH Hollies Meeting Room 2
Mon 30/6	17:00	DMH Lecture Theatre
Mon 7/7	12:30	UHND Former Trust HQ Boardroom
Mon 7/7	17:00	UHND Lecture Theatre
Tues 8/7	12:30	BAGH Lecture Theatre
Weds 16/7	12:30	Shotley Bridge – Physio staff room

Fri 25/7 12:30 Chester-le-Street Meeting Room, 2nd Floor

**Any questions**

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