

JOINT CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 APRIL 2012
DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES AT LINGS BAR HOSPITAL - UPDATE
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Committee on service developments at Lings Bar Hospital, providing councillors with an opportunity to consider and comment on the outcomes to date, and their implications for service users.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the latest service developments at Lings Bar Hospital.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Local NHS Trusts have a statutory duty to consult the relevant local authority overview and scrutiny committee when proposing changes to local health services.

- 3.2 Lings Bar Hospital is located in Gamston on the outskirts of West Bridgford, offering the following services:

- in-patient wards dedicated to older persons rehabilitation
- Specialist physiotherapy outpatient clinic
- Falls outpatient clinic
- Dermatology outpatient clinic
- Day Hospital with 20 places for mental health services for older people
- Mental health outpatients clinic

- 3.3 At its September 2011 meeting, the Committee received a presentation and briefing on plans to pilot a new service to develop and deliver care to patients, arising from a review of care in community hospitals across the county. The proposed changes were designed to:

- accelerate discharge of less complex patients;
- develop integrated pathways between Adult Social Care and Health and Community services;
- redirect resources through avoiding admission to Lings Bar (City-based pilot) and providing early supported discharge from Lings Bar (County-based pilot); and
- explore expanding the service offer at Lings Bar, with a focus on haemodialysis and stroke rehabilitation services.

As part of these proposals, 24 of the original 96 beds were to be removed from Lings Bar Hospital, which would release resources to develop patient care within the community.

- 3.4 While mindful of its statutory responsibilities in relation to substantial variations and developments in health services – see paragraph 3.6 below - the Committee took the view that that the proposed changes should be considered a local issue at this time (minute 24 dated 13 September 2011 refers). Pilot representatives were invited to update the Committee on pilot outcomes, and on how these would inform commissioning decisions for the future provision of services in the community from 2012/13.
- 3.5 A letter dated 14 February 2012, updating councillors on the development of services at Lings Bar Hospital and prepared by NHS Nottinghamshire County, is attached as an appendix to this report. The letter highlights developments in respect of the establishment of a Haemodialysis Unit on the Lings Bar site, the roll-out of both City- and County-based pilots, the accelerated discharge scheme, collaborative working with adult social care providers, the Community geriatrician service and patient feedback.
- 3.6 This Committee is reminded that it has statutory responsibilities in relation to substantial variations and developments in health services in accordance with sections 7 and 8 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and associated regulations and guidance. These are to consider the following matters in relation to any substantial variations or developments that impact upon those in receipt of services:
- a) Whether, as a statutory body, the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been properly consulted within the consultation process;
 - b) Whether, in developing the proposals for service changes, the health body concerned has taken into account the public interest through appropriate patient and public involvement and consultation;
 - c) Whether a proposal for changes is in the interests of the local health service.
- 3.7 Current indications from pilot representatives are that the County-based pilot has had a slower-than-expected, albeit positive, throughput of service users. It is therefore likely that this pilot will need extending, to provide a sufficient evidence base to inform longer-term commissioning plans. The Committee will not therefore be required to consider whether a substantial variation / development of health services has occurred at this time.

4. List of attached information

Appendix 1 – Letter from NHS Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County dated 14 February 2012

5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

None.

6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

Report, presentation and minutes arising from Joint Health Scrutiny Committee meeting, 13 September 2011.

7. Wards affected

All

8. Contact information

Contact Colleague

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30 March 2012



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14 February 2012

Dear Councillors

Development of services at Ling's Bar Hospital

Following our meeting with you in September 2011, I'm pleased to update you on the development of services at Ling's Bar Hospital since that time.

By way of background; following an independent utilisation review of community hospitals in Nottinghamshire County, the results demonstrated that nearly half of the patients treated at Ling's Bar Hospital (LBH) did not need to be there or would be better cared for in the community. A working group of clinicians have been looking at ways to develop sustainable and appropriate care for patients in the community whilst re-utilising LBH as a valuable health facility.

The following is an update on the initiatives and projects that started in September 2011 to support the development of services:

- In December 2011, NHS Nottinghamshire County agreed to lease the vacant ward to Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) so that a Haemodialysis Unit could be located at LBH. This will improve access to haemodialysis services for patients in the South of Nottinghamshire. The new unit is expected to open in April 2012.
- The accelerated discharge scheme, which is ensuring patients are returned to more appropriate care at the right time, has reduced the length of patients stay at LBH to 14 days, for those within the scheme.
- Starting in October 2011, 24 patients have been through the County pilot where appropriate and individualised packages of care have enabled earlier discharge of patients from LBH into their home with the majority of patients being in the new service for less than 14 days. The evaluation of the pilot is

being supported by the Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) in Nottinghamshire.

Patient feedback from the new service has been overwhelmingly positive, with all patients extremely happy with the care they have received. Feedback includes:

- "I preferred being at home and this service was better for me"
 - "The care (I received) helped me survive"
 - "I have got nothing but positives to say (about the service)"
- Starting in October 2011, 20 patients have been through the City pilot. The majority of patients have been able to remain in their own homes following a period of rehabilitation with ongoing support from community and social care services where appropriate. The evaluation, that is being carried out by the University of Nottingham, is now underway and will make recommendations for future implementation.
 - NHS Nottinghamshire County has worked closely with Nottinghamshire County Council Adult Social Care and Health Team to reduce the delayed transfers of care from LBH to social care. In November, for the first time in three years, LBH experienced no delayed transfers of care due to social care reasons. This continues to be achieved through social care staff working closely with hospital staff to ensure all patients have a discharge plan in place. The social care team are also now based in LBH.
 - The County Community Geriatrician service, which provides medical support to the community pilot and supports local GPs to manage patients in the community, will be extended from April 2012.
 - 24 unused beds were removed from LBH at the beginning of November (these are being filled by the Haemodialysis Unit). This available resource is being used to continue developing better patient care within the community. The seasonal peaks of hospital usage remain the same as they were in 2010/11. This can be explained by the improvements in access to packages of social care which means that patients can leave LBH sooner.

We will happily provide further patient experience feedback from our pilots in our report to you in April.

We look forward to meeting again in April to update you further on progress. In the meantime, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Samantha Walters
Chief Operating Officer, Nottingham North and East Clinical
Commissioning Group
On behalf of NHS Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County