

REPORT TO THE AREA COMMITTEE

SSAFA CARE CIC and Southglade Park GP Surgery

- **Background to provision of new GP surgeries and what the implications were to Nottingham City**

The Equitable Access to Primary Medical Care Programme was established to deliver more personalised care and to improve access to primary medical care in accordance with the NHS Next Stage Review Interim Report (October 2007) by Lord Darzi. Nationally, the NHS committed to establishing 100 new GP practices in areas of the country where there was a relatively low number of GPs per head of population.

- **Procurement process undertaken by NHS Nottingham City, including identification of under doctored locations**

Locally, a commitment was given by NHS Nottingham City to commission one GP-led health centre in the City Centre, and three GP practices under the new APMS (Alternative Providers of Medical Services) contract. Following public consultation, the three areas identified for the new GP practices were the City Centre, Bilborough and Bestwood. The APMS contract is designed to provide better access for patients and a full range of enhanced services.

Unfortunately, NHS Nottingham City was unable to identify a suitable provider for the Bestwood area during the first procurement process in 2008 and following a bidder event held at the Southglade Access Centre in February 2009, which was aimed at providing prospective providers with more specific information around the requirements of the Bestwood population, the tender process was commenced again.

- **Outcome of procurement process**

In September 2009 SSAFA Care CIC was named as the “preferred provider” and the APMS contract for the provision of Primary Medical Services was signed in November 2009.

- **SSAFA Forces Help, background and ethos**

SSAFA Forces Help has been delivering healthcare services to MOD worldwide for more than 120 years. It now employs 600 health and social work professional staff on contract delivery to Ministry of Defence on a Tri Service basis.

SSAFA Forces Help is an extensive voluntary and charitable organisation which supports the Armed Forces community, including families of bereaved and wounded in homes from home at both Selly Oak and Headley Court.

In 1995, SSAFA became a founder member with Guys and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust and the MOD Defence Medical Services of the British Forces in Germany Health Service, providing health and social care to all members of the forces stationed in Germany and their families.

In 2008, SSAFA won the contract to deliver primary medical care services in Luton, taking over a practice which had been managed by the PCT with locums. This practice delivers the whole range of GP services to over 4,000 patients. At the end of 2008, SSAFA won the contract to run the GP-led Health and Walk-in-Centre in Leicester and commenced service in January 2009. By the end of the first year, the numbers of registered patients were more than double that expected by NHS Leicester City. In Doncaster, SSAFA in partnership with Hallam Medical provide an Emergency Care Practitioner service, which is designed to send paramedics into patients' homes to manage and treat patients who might otherwise have attended the Accident and Emergency Department.

SSAFA Care CIC is committed to delivering high quality healthcare to the population it serves and as a charity is required to cover its costs, not to make a profit.

- **Collaborative work with Nottingham City Council, NHS Nottingham City and SSAFA Care CIC to identify a suitable and appropriate site**

A requirement of the APMS contract was for the provider to liaise with the Council's Regeneration Team on the identification of a suitable premises location. Following these discussions, the Regeneration Team proposed a site in Southglade Park which is a hub of existing community facilities, such as a Sure Start Centre, Leisure Centre and a Library. Although this site falls marginally outside of the Bestwood border, the Regeneration Team have advised that the site is considered to be part of Bestwood, and the services provided are for the use of the residents of Bestwood. This site is ideally situated to serve the residential areas within the southern part of Bestwood, where there are currently no GP practices. There are three GP practices located in the northern half of the Ward. SSAFA will be able to register patients from the Bestwood Ward and also any patients living within a 3 mile radius of the practice premises. SSAFA have been working with a Project Group set up by the Regeneration Team, which includes Planning Department and other Council representatives, in order to finalise details and agree Heads of Terms for the lease. The PCT has been asked to approve this premises solution formally and following confirmation of this approval and subject to further cost analysis to ensure that the project is financially viable, SSAFA aims to finalise lease arrangements with Nottingham City Council and submit a planning application for a new-build Health Centre.

- **Work carried out by SSAFA Care CIC to date on the project, including artist's impression of building**

SSAFA Care CIC have employed a nationally renowned firm of planners and architects, Barton Willmore, with previous experience of delivery of projects for the provision of healthcare services, to support SSAFA's own project manager.

Work has commenced on the design of the building and the proposed footprint for the building is located towards the east of the site, to be split over two levels to take into account the gradient of the site. Barton Willmore is currently in the process of commissioning a wider consultant team to advise through the planning process, to include geotechnical engineers, a traffic and highways consultant, already appointed, Technical work is being commenced on the site in the form of a detailed site investigation works through a geotechnical study.

It is hoped to submit a planning application for the proposals in May 2010 and as part of the pre-planning application process, we will be undertaking appropriate public consultation in line with Nottingham City Council's requirements as set out in the adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

(An artist's impression of the building which will be shown at the meeting)

- **Services to be offered from the GP surgery, including patient numbers over the lifetime of the contract and the number of doctors and nurses to be employed**

The APMS contract to deliver primary medical care services details that SSAFA Care CIC must provide all the essential, additional and enhanced services to patients within the Bestwood ward. This requirement is greater than that on non-APMS contract general practitioners. SSAFA already deliver healthcare on this basis in Luton and Leicester.

The initial contract period is for five years and it is expected that 6,000 patients will be registered by the end of that period. The national average GP to patient ratio is 1:1,800. SSAFA will be employing sufficient numbers of doctors to ensure that there are sufficient appointments to deliver the standard of medical care expected. Nurse practitioners, practice nurses and healthcare assistants are an important part of the surgery's primary healthcare team and SSAFA will employ the appropriate skill mix to ensure that patients receive the appropriate level of care. It is difficult to quantify the numbers to be employed from the beginning of service delivery, since SSAFA does not know how quickly patients will register. However, SSAFA will, of course, ensure that enough doctors and nurses are on site to deliver primary medical care and health promotion.