

Westbury Primary Care Development

Questions and Answers

What is a Primary Care Development?

The Westbury Primary Care Development (PCD) provides an exciting opportunity for first class health care in the town. The development will include an extended modern GP surgery which combines the Eastleigh Surgery and the White Horse Surgery with a range of other health care services, all under one roof. The building will be a modern, purpose-built centre with appropriate space and facilities to serve Westbury's people properly, with room for expansion as it may be required in the future.

The plans have evolved through the work of a Steering Group with members drawn from NHS Wiltshire, the Westbury Group Practice, Patients' Forum, League of Friends and the Town Council.

Where will Westbury's Primary Care Development be?

The development will be located at Leigh Park, Westbury, on the opposite side of Mane Way from the local shops.

Why will it be there?

We have spent the last few years looking for a suitable site for the new development. This site is the only one that we have been able to find that is suitable, available and viable. The site is a suitable size for our development, it is available now and we are not aware of any abnormal development costs (such as land contamination).

What services will be available?

The PCD will accommodate all the services that are currently provided from Eastleigh and White Horse Surgery but in addition to this there will be a number of new services available that Westbury people currently have to travel to other towns to access. The services available will be:

- 8 GPs from the existing surgeries (so you will continue to see your family doctor), plus a GP in training
- Nurse Practitioners, who are able to see, treat and prescribe for patients
- Nurses, providing a wide range of services from Family Planning to Asthma care
- Consultant outpatient clinics

- A minor surgery suite, which will be used by staff and visiting Secondary Care consultants
- The Westbury and Warminster Neighbourhood Teams (who provide community healthcare to patients in their own homes)
- A mobile diagnostics centre, for screening services and diagnostic tests
- Community midwives, providing antenatal and postnatal care
- Health visitors
- Outpatient X-ray facilities for patients under the care of specialists at Salisbury District Hospital
- A stand-by point for the Ambulance Service
- A dental surgery, which will extend to three dentists on site, providing NHS and private dental services
- Primary care counselling services
- Lifestyle management services, including diet, exercise advice and smoking cessation support

The building will be approximately 2400 square metres in floor area, compared to our existing Eastleigh Surgery that is less than 700 square metres.

What about a pharmacy?

The practice is in negotiation with a Pharmacy Provider who plans to provide a pharmacy on site which will open for 100 hours each week (which equates to 14 hours a day, 7 days a week). The pharmacy will principally be aimed at users of the surgery, but other people will be able to use it.

Will there be enough car parking?

Our current proposals include about 100 parking spaces for patients and we think that this will be sufficient for the number of patients that we anticipate at the surgery. The site is also within walking and cycling distance of many homes in the area, it is within about 500 metres of existing bus stops and we will also promote access to the site via community transport services.

How will people get there?

We know that wherever we site the new Primary Care Development, it will be advantageous to some and not so convenient for others. People will be able to walk, drive or cycle to the Primary Care Development. In addition, the Steering Group and the BA13 Transport Group are exploring the possibility of improving bus links to the area. We will need to work closely with all transport providers and voluntary services to make sure that we have the best transport infrastructure possible, to help patients get to the Primary Care Development. We will be looking at how best to improve transport links to the site through a 'Travel Plan'.

What's wrong with the existing surgery premises in Station Road?

Anyone who has been to the surgery will know that doctors and staff work in very cramped conditions! The reception area doesn't provide the levels of

confidentiality which patients deserve, and our waiting room could be a lot brighter and more comfortable. What's more, the practice are very keen to expand our range of services for patients; we just don't have the room to do that at the moment. We are limited in how many doctors can work at any given time because of a shortage of consulting rooms and this can have an impact on the availability of appointments.

Outpatient clinics can be held at the new building, and patients under the care of some consultants at Salisbury Hospital will be able to see them in Westbury rather than travelling to Salisbury. Larger space will provide more comfortable surroundings for patients, as well as the opportunity to extend medical services and skills with better equipment. With the additional space available, the practice will be able to become a Training Practice – which means more GPs available on site for patients.

There will be a new telephone system which means the practice can get rid of the existing 0844 number – it's recognised that this has not been popular and patients will be consulted about the choice of a new system.

Why aren't you using the Westbury Hospital buildings?

The options appraisal, which was used to compare all the possible sites, ruled out the Westbury Hospital site. Access to the hospital is difficult, parts of it are in disrepair and it is expensive to maintain. The cost of updating the building to a standard which is suitable to enough to take us into the next thirty years is too prohibitive.

What will happen to the Westbury Hospital site?

Once the site has been vacated, it makes sense to sell the site, because the cost of its upkeep is not a good use of tax payers' money. The money saved will be reinvested in NHS services, so that we can continue to make improvements to people's health and the health facilities we have in Wiltshire.

How can NHS Wiltshire afford the development at such a financially difficult time? Isn't the NHS cutting services?

Westbury Primary Care Development is a GP funded development, with no NHS Capital invested in the scheme. This means that the funding for the new building will be raised when the GPs at the existing Westbury GP surgeries (The Eastleigh Surgery and the White Horse Surgery) sell their current practice buildings. The GPs then lease part of the space at the new development to NHS Wiltshire, so that the new, additional NHS services (such as the Neighbourhood Teams) can be provided from the site.

It's true that the NHS is facing a difficult financial period, which is why the Westbury Primary Care Development provides such an exciting opportunity for the town. It's important that we seize this chance to improve health facilities in Westbury, because we probably won't get another opportunity for several years.

What about Bratton Surgery?

Bratton Surgery will remain exactly as it is, there will be no change at the surgery and all the current services will remain.

What happens next?

We will hold an Open Day for the public at the Paragon on 26th May from 3 – 6.15pm. People will be able to talk to the architect, the GPs and representatives from NHS Wiltshire about the plans for the new development. The plans will be on display and people can ask questions about the services etc.

A planning application will be made to Wiltshire Council at the end of May. We hope that the Primary Care Development will open by Christmas 2011 but until then, all the existing services will remain as they are until we are ready to move into the new building.