

Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AL

Dear Councillor Eddis,

It gives me great pleasure to provide you with the following update from Solent NHS Trust, which will offer you the latest information and news in relation to the services we provide.

In this letter I would like to update you on the following:

- Solent Single Point of Access
- Future ownership of NHS Estates
- Update on the Fair Oak Unit, St James Hospital
- Proposed transfer of D1 ward, QAH to Rembrandt Ward
- Wheelchair service
- Current financial position

It is also anticipated that each quarter, we will send you a further update on emerging developments, which I hope you will find useful.

Single Point of Access (SPA)

The Single Point of Access is a single phone number providing a 24/7 point of contact for most of our services, for healthcare professionals, patients and carers to:

- access our services
- make and reschedule appointments
- monitor conditions through the use of telehealth equipment and provide a timely response
- ensure patients receive the right care, in the right place, with the best use of available resources.

The SPA will help avoid hospital admissions and improve patient experience, through being able to coordinate community care services efficiently and effectively.

These teams currently provide case management for 1365 patients with 95 patients requiring a higher level of care currently managed in virtual wards. These teams enable the majority of patients they see to manage their conditions safely at home.

Teams also operate in the Emergency Departments and are currently avoiding an admission or supporting the prompt discharge for over three quarters of the patients referred to these teams.

We have also been working with the Ambulance Service to decrease admissions to hospital, by encouraging paramedics to contact the SPA if a patient needs help, but does not need to

go into hospital. The SPA will then be able to help the paramedic ensure the patient receives the right care at home rather than being transported to hospital.

Estates

Since the DH guidance in January 2011 around aspirant Foundation Trust's being given the opportunity to acquire PCT owned estates, we have been working with both NHS Southampton City and NHS Portsmouth around the transfer of some of the local health estate we use and which they currently own.

Our early proposals were considered and approved by the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) at the end of July. The DH issued revised guidance on 4th August and the proposals are now being reviewed by the SHIP cluster. We anticipate, subject to final approvals:

- transfer all of the NHS Portsmouth owned estate to Solent NHS Trust
- transfer a large proportion of the estate owned by NHS Southampton City to Solent NHS Trust

Update on Fair Oak low secure mental health service

Fair Oak is a 14 bedded low secure mental health service for people with Severe Mental Illness and offending behaviour. Most patients are admitted, through step-down from medium secure units, or via courts as an alternative to a prison sentence. The majority of patients admitted, are from the Portsmouth area.

Forensic mental health services are best provided by organisations with a specialist forensic mental health portfolio. This helps them achieve scale economies and high levels of expertise. In the South Central SHA region; only three of the six NHS Mental Health Trusts offer forensic mental health care. Of these only Solent has a single unit.

In April 2011 Solent NHS Trust Board approved the decision to give notice to Specialist Commissioning Group (SCG) on the provision of Fair Oak; we are now working with commissioners to secure a long term arrangement for this service.

Update on the Transfer of D1 from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust to the new Rembrandt Ward at St Mary's Hospital

In the new year Solent NHS Trust commenced the delivery of a new service model for inpatient and community rehabilitation. Approval for funding of the new model was granted via the HASP partnership in May 2011

24 intermediate care beds currently provided by Portsmouth Hospitals Trust on D1 Ward at the Queen Alexandra Hospital will be decommissioned over the coming months.

From February, care of Portsmouth patients will be re-provided at a new enhanced service at the Rembrandt Unit on the St Mary's Hospital Site and additional community services provided by Solent NHS Trust. The current Rembrandt Unit will be developed to accommodate the change in demand through the establishment of 4 additional beds and enhanced therapies and nursing input. Additional community based medical, nursing and therapies staff will supplement the provision at Rembrandt and the complete model will offer safe and appropriate care for rehab patients, closer to home and as an alternative to longer stays in an acute hospital setting."

Wheelchair Services

We are delighted to have been awarded the contract to provide wheelchair services in Portsmouth and South East Hampshire. As an already established wheelchair provider to residents of Southampton, the opportunity to provide a service to wheelchair users across South Hampshire is very exciting.

Earlier this year, service users were invited to view plans for the building where the service will be operating from in Portsmouth and were given the opportunity to influence the design. The team are also developing a wheelchair user's forum.

From 5 September 2011 the Wheelchair Service in Portsmouth and South East Hampshire will be relocating from the Disablement Services Centre, St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth.

The service will be moving to a new purpose built clinic at the Community Equipment and Resource Centre, Robinson Way, Portsmouth PO3 5SA. The change will mean there is a single venue for provision, assessment and repairs of wheelchairs for all service users within South East Hampshire including:

- Portsmouth City
- Fareham and Gosport
- Havant and Petersfield areas.


The existing service in Southampton will remain unchanged.

Financial statement

The Trust financial performance to month 4 is break even. The year end position is forecast to achieve plan.

I hope you find this letter informative. Further information on each of these areas is also available on our website. Please don't hesitate to contact the Communications Team via email at communications@solent.nhs.uk or by calling 023 8060 8937 if you require further details on any of the enclosed updates.

Kind regards,



Dr Ros Tolcher,
Chief Executive, Solent NHS Trust