

## **Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel – Monday 9 October 2023**

### **Royal United Hospital update**

There are a number of updates to pass on regarding the Royal United Hospital this month:

#### **1. Sulis Elective Orthopaedic Centre update**

A planning application has been submitted to BaNES Council by the RUH for a new wing at Sulis Hospital in Peasedown St John. If approved, this will allow for an increased capacity at Sulis for non-emergency orthopaedic surgery

As reported last month, the new development, which has secured £25m in national NHS funding, would see:

- Two additional modular theatres
- Four extra inpatient beds
- Seven extra day case pods

The SEOC would be a centre of excellence working to national best-practice standards and providing high-quality care.

Surgery would be protected from disruption and cancellations caused by surges in emergency hospital admissions because Sulis is not an acute hospital with an emergency department, and as such the SEOC will enhance the resilience of services into the future.

The SEOC would serve patients from the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) area, and beyond, from the whole of the South West region.

#### **2. Dyson Cancer Centre**

Work is also continuing at the hospital to build the new Dyson Cancer Centre which is now expected to welcome patients in spring 2024 rather than at the end of 2023.

Construction has progressed well since the RUH broke ground in 2021 but a shortage of engineers to complete some of the complex internal engineering work means completion of the centre will take a little longer than originally planned.

Once open, the Dyson Cancer Centre will bring together the majority of the RUH's cancer services, including research, under one roof. It will provide oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services and a 22-bed inpatient ward as well as a Macmillan Wellbeing Hub.

The centre will provide a nurturing and therapeutic environment, with a 'land, water, sky' theme, making extensive use of natural light and external spaces as well as the work of local artists and designers.

The £50m Dyson Cancer Centre is backed by over £40m in Government New Hospitals Programme funding and supported in part by a £4m donation from The James Dyson Foundation to create a cancer services hub for half a million people in the South West of England.

A further £1m was donated by the Medlock Charitable Trust, £1.5m by Macmillan Cancer Support and £5m was also raised by RUHX (formerly known as The Forever Friends Appeal), the official charity of the Trust, thanks to the kindness and compassion of thousands of supporters.

### **3. CQC inspection**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) report published in October on the RUH followed its focused inspection of aspects of Medical Care in July 2023.

The inspectors had many positive things to say about their visit, including particular praise for the 'outstanding programme' for international nurses and how managers and ward leaders were supported to make the wards a welcoming place to work.

The report however also reflected some areas requiring more attention resulting in a reduction of the rating of Medical Care Services at the RUH from 'good' to 'requires improvement'.

An action plan to address these is already well underway including improving storage space on wards, ensuring consistent completion of fluid chart documentation and a continuing focus on Healthcare Support Worker recruitment.

Partners in the ICA continue to work together to support improvement and share all findings from regulatory inspections.

## **Integrated Community-Based Care Programme**

The BSW Primary and Community Care Delivery Plan is seeking to redesign the way community-based health and care services operate. It supports the delivery of the ambitions set out in the BSW Together 'Integrated Care Strategy' and to drive forward the implementation of elements of the BSW Care Model.

The Integrated Community Based Care (ICBC) Programme is the method by which services will be procured in support of the ICP strategy and Primary and Community Care Delivery Plan.

The Programme lies at the heart of our aspiration to implement a greater focus on prevention and early intervention in our approach to supporting the health and well-being of the BSW population. The approach being undertaken aims to enable BSW to achieve fairer health outcomes for the whole population and to deliver excellent health and care services.

A formal procurement process will be undertaken using established procurement frameworks and subject to the confidential, commercial requirements that govern all public sector procurement processes. Once the process has concluded, more information will be made available.

## **BaNES Integrated Care Alliance Winter update**

BaNES Integrated Care Alliance has developed a joint approach to delivering services and supporting citizens across BaNES during winter 2023/4.

The joint focus across the area during winter 2023/34 will be on maximising capacity through the following measures:

- Two virtual wards have been established in B&NES – step-up model to reduce avoidable admission provided by HCRG and step-down model provided by RUH to expedite discharge
- Our step-up virtual ward includes access to diagnostics including imaging and rapid blood tests working in collaboration with the RUH. The team, which includes specialist nurses and paramedics, also provide IV medication at home
- Both services have received excellent feedback from patients
- Clinical support in care homes – dedicated paramedic working on relationships and clinical pathways. Current focus on end-of-life pathways
- Working with Dorothy House on exploring alternative accommodation options for Winter using their lodges
- Co-design of communication campaign for parents and carers over Winter linked to the Handiapp – which provides health information and guidance. Focus also planned on emotional well-being for children and young people
- Monthly Community MADE (Multiagency discharge event) to track each patient and understand any pathway blockage
- Funding confirmed to run PUSH (respiratory illness) clinics for children and young people in areas of known deprivation and prevalence – with the BaNES GP federation BEMS. Start date Dec, 105 clinics between start and March 31<sup>st</sup>

## **Community Pharmacy update**

On the 01 April 2023 Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB), received delegated responsibility for a greater range of primary care services, namely to take on the responsibility for Pharmaceutical Services (including Dispensing Doctors and Dispensing Appliance Contractors), General Ophthalmic Services, and Dental (Primary, Secondary and Community). This was confirmed by the Health and Care Bill published in July 2021, which confers the duty on ICB to secure the provision of these services for their populations.

BSW ICB is supported by a team of colleagues, previously NHS England and now the South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub, who undertake the day to day management of contracting on the ICB's behalf.

Following a request made at the last meeting of the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, we are pleased to include an in-depth update on pharmacy access for adults and Children in BaNES in Appendix 2 of this report.

## **Appendix 1: Answers to questions asked by counsellors at previous meetings**

### **1. Now BSW ICB is commissioning dental services, are dentists responding to the new contracts that are being negotiated? (Kevin Burnett)**

At present no new contracts are being negotiated, there is a phase two procurement due to go out, but this is currently being scoped as part of the regional investment plan.

### **2. Could mobile dental services be provided? (Kevin Burnett)**

At present there is no mobile service in the pipeline. There is a pilot mobile service being run in another region and we are awaiting the feedback from that. There is of course the Dentaaid bus that offers dental services based in Portsmouth, but this is a charity-run organisation. Information on Dentaaid can be found at: <https://www.dentaaid.org/>

### **3. Are our NHS dentists going to be paid more - this would address the access problems we are experiencing at the moment (CLR Joanna Wright)**

NHS Primary Care and High Street dental practices are funded differently to other primary care services. The providers themselves are independent businesses that hold an NHS contract and usually deliver both private and NHS dental services.

In 2006 when the government changed the contract to the new Units of Dental Activity (UDA) contract, a cap was placed on dental funding, which meant that there was only sufficient funding to provide 50 per cent of the population with NHS dental services.

At present, we are looking for alternative ways in which to deliver NHS dental services to attract clinicians back into the NHS. However, at present, unless there is further investment into the service, we cannot offer additional financial increases to contracts outside of the current financial envelope apart from the annual uplift.

### **4. Will there be enough money to meet the aspirations laid out in the report, particularly in terms of attracting and retaining dentists? (CLR Liz Hardman)**

There is currently work underway to scope how we can rebase and reprofile current contracts which will enable us to offer a broader spectrum of services aimed at specific population groups in areas of deprivation, this will hopefully allow us to increase access to

those with a high oral health need, while at the same time, pay an enhanced rate for the services.

The funding for these changes cannot exceed the current financial envelope, therefore we must ensure we get the correct mix of services that best suit the local population demand.

**5. We need a cross-party motion we can present to the government about these issues, especially paying dentists more (CLR Liz Hardman)**

Before moving forward with any motion, it is important to ensure that all the myths around high street dentistry are dispelled and those individuals involved have received an accurate update on how high street dentistry works and is funded.

There have been several papers presented to the government about the current high street dental position, one such paper resulted in the indicative UDA rate being increased to £23 in November 2022, which we are aware did not go far enough. We are expecting an update on the dental reform programme at the end of November, but at this stage, we have not been given any steer as to what this might look like.

## **Appendix 2: Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES) Community Pharmacy**



BaNES Health  
Overview and Scruti