

25.1.2018

Dear community partner

Preferred option of a new Community Hospital in the Forest of Dean approved

Following careful review and consideration of the information presented to them, the CCG Governing Body and the Board of Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust have today approved the preferred option of a new community hospital in the Forest of Dean to replace Dilke Memorial Hospital and Lydney and District Hospital.

The two Boards, meeting separately, also approved the criteria to be used to consider a preferred location for the hospital and agreed that an independent body will now be commissioned to establish a combined panel to make a recommendation on the location.

The Panel will be independently selected and will include a majority of lay (public) members (and also clinical members).

Both Boards were satisfied that there was no new or material information that had come to light through the 12 week staff and public consultation that would bring into question the case for change.

However, our Boards recognised that a number of key themes had emerged during the consultation. Whilst approving the preferred option, our organisations will work with partners to address a number of these points in our planning.

Key themes from the consultation:

The number of beds in a new hospital

Our Boards confirmed that no final bed numbers had been agreed for a new hospital in the Forest of Dean and that further work would be undertaken on the evidence base for proposed bed numbers. This will be completed and shared before the final design of the new community hospital is agreed.

Travel and access

Our Boards recognised the importance of travel and access for people in the Forest of Dean. It was agreed that travel and access issues should be reflected in any consideration of location.

Our organisations will work with other partners to support wider ambitions to improve public transport and access routes within the Forest of Dean and work with community transport providers to promote the use of their services.

Other recommendations

The Boards also agreed a number of recommendations relating to:

- Changing demographics
- Forest of Dean heritage/local investment
- Level of detail/detailed service planning
- NHS costs
- Response to alternative options
- The impact of options/impact assessment
- The criteria for location of any new community hospital and how any recommendation would be made.

Full details of these recommendations can be found in the Board sections of our websites: www.gloucestershireccg.nhs.uk and www.glos-care.nhs.uk

Next Steps

We believe the preferred option offers a number of benefits to local patients – whether that’s improved clinical space to support services, overcoming the challenges of maintaining some essential services across two sites or providing a great care environment for patients and staff.

In making today’s decisions, we recognise the great many people who have worked so hard to develop healthcare facilities in the Forest of Dean over many generations and the role that the current two hospitals have played and will continue to play until the new hospital is open.

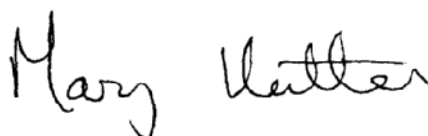
We look forward to working with you to deliver a fitting legacy. Our ambition is to deliver a great new, state of the art community hospital that can support high quality, modern healthcare and the best possible working conditions for our dedicated staff.

Work will now progress to determine a location for the new hospital with a planned completion date for the build of 2022. We hope this update is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Katie Norton
Chief Executive
Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust



Mary Hutton
Accountable Officer
NHS Gloucestershire CCG