

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 4 SEPTEMBER 2018

PROPOSED INTEGRATED HOSPITAL, CARE AND LEISURE COMPLEX IN BERWICK

Report of

NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group

1. Purpose of report

NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) proposes the development of a new hospital integrated as part of a health, care and Northumberland County Council (NCC) leisure complex, on the Swan Centre site in Berwick. The CCG seeks Northumberland Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee's confirmation that it is content with the healthcare element of the proposal and the intention to continue to engage with the local community throughout the development and design phase of the integrated development.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to note:

- The contents of the report and the presentation and provide comment.

2. Background

In 2009 NHS North of Tyne released the results of the 'Building a Caring Future' consultation which concentrated on proposals by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's (NHCFT) to create the Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital in Cramlington (the Northumbria), improvements to North Tyneside and Wansbeck hospitals and the re-building of community hospitals in Berwick and Haltwhistle. Further discussions between NHCFT and local people about Berwick Infirmary have been ongoing since that time.

Since the opening of the Northumbria in 2015, the CCG has continued to review health services in Northumberland and in August 2016 it asked NHCFT to pause its plans for the redevelopment of Berwick Infirmary to allow time to consider the implications of local, regional and national healthcare strategies.

During the pause, the CCG worked closely with NHCFT to review the 2016 plans and ensure that, in light of other developments, they remained fit for purpose. This enabled some small changes to plans for the final provision. It also opened up the possibility of an

integrated development with leisure facilities and this was initially discussed with the newly established Berwick Regeneration Commission.

This work culminated in the development of an Outline Business Case that considered the current state of the Berwick Infirmary site, previous redevelopment plans and opportunities for local healthcare improvement. Both CCG and NHCFT's boards supported the potential synergies of an integrated development as it supported the prevention and integration agendas and, as such, was considered to be very beneficial to the health and wellbeing of the people of Berwick. In December 2017 the CCG's Joint Locality Executive Board approved that further work should be undertaken to fully explore future options for the redevelopment. It further directed that the CCG, together with NHCFT, should facilitate a further period of public engagement, concerning potential locations and an integrated concept, to inform the decision making process.

3. Engagement Process

As part of the broader and ongoing engagement undertaken by NHCFT, the CCG and NHCFT led a listening exercise from February to May 2018. This comprised a series of events including five drop-in sessions, discussions at NHCFT's 'Join our Journey' trailer, eight meetings with specific community groups facilitated by Healthwatch Northumberland and a public meeting at Berwick Town Hall. Approximately 350 people attended the various opportunities to give their views.

The views of the local community group Berwick Deserves Better, emails and social media posts were also gathered. The full engagement report is at **Appendix 1** and will be made more widely available on the CCG's website and to key stakeholders and the public after the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The CCG's Strategic Head of Corporate Affairs presented the initial engagement feedback to the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee in May 2018. In summary views were mixed about the concept of an integrated development; some people felt strongly that there should be a standalone hospital while others, who took the opportunity to further explore the potential benefits, welcomed the idea. There were also mixed views about the location; some liked the Swan Centre while others clearly preferred the existing town centre site.

Opposing overall views expressed, whilst not overly specific, seemed to centre on concerns about the provision of improved services, travel to other hospital services, privacy and dignity within shared facilities and a worry that less health investment may be made in a joint venture. One of the overriding emotions was a sense of frustration; despite years of talking about the proposals nothing had yet come to fruition. People now wanted some form of official commitment to the redevelopment.

Partners will be considering at the next stage how best to continue engagement to ensure a balance of views across stakeholders and actively seek out seldom heard opinion and views of disadvantaged groups.

4. Decision Making Business Case

At their Boards in July the CCG and NHCFT fully considered all available options and the comprehensive engagement feedback report. Both Boards noted the health benefits expected from the design of a modern, new build, facility recognising that this option provided a strong focus on integration and the ability to realise new technology opportunities in outpatients to deliver virtual/digitally based clinics which would enable new specialities to be delivered and prevent travel to other sites.

The Boards considered that the co-location of health and leisure would enable local people to have easy access to the services they need to stay active and healthy therefore allowing healthcare services to focus more on overall health and prevention. It was also expected that workforce recruitment and retention would improve in an integrated environment. Such a development was also thought to offer efficiencies in build and running costs. With facilities such as car parking, café, shops and a gym benefitting all and maximising available funding for front-line service provision.

The Boards carefully considered the views of those opposed to an integrated facility and, in light of no reduction to the financial commitment, considered that many could readily be addressed within the new design. Consideration of the site options led to the Swan Centre being selected due to the support in the engagement, good position and the financial and delivery advantages.

The Boards re-iterated their commitment to the earliest delivery of a new health facility for Berwick and decided to take forward the integrated hospital, care and leisure proposal on the Swan Centre site. This decision is subject to final approvals being forthcoming from NCC and the requisite financial assurance concerning future revenue implications being provided to NHS England by the CCG.

5. External Assurance

The CCG has undertaken an assurance process with the NHS England Cumbria and the North East regional team. The team have been made fully aware of the process undertaken thus far and the proposed services to be delivered from the new hospital site (to be presented at the committee) and consider that, while there is a minimal reduction in bed capacity (which is in line with the CCG's assessment of current utilisation and future demand), they do not represent a 'significant change' to current provision that would require a period of official public consultation. The CCG will subsequently be required to provide an assessment of the revenue financial implications of the proposal; however NHS England regional team's advice concerning the service change assurance process has been given regardless of this requirement. The regional team's Director of Delivery and Commissioning's letter to the CCG is at **Appendix 2**.

6. Way Ahead

Should NCC approvals and NHS England financial assurance be forthcoming, and the committee is content that the CCG has followed due process and the proposals do not constitute a 'significant variation' in current provision, the CCG and NHCFT intend to continue to work with local people throughout the development and design phase of the new integrated facility. This work will be predominantly be undertaken by NHCFT by way of continued dialogue. This will seek to inform the development process and, where possible, mitigate the issues raised in the initial engagement feedback report.

Appendix 1 – Berwick Engagement Feedback report

Appendix 2 – NHS England, Cumbria and the North East letter dated 10 August 2018

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