
THE FRIARAGE CONSULTATION TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP –
INTERIM REPORT

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To report the response submitted to the consultation on Children's and Maternity Services at the Friarage Hospital based on the work of the Friarage Consultation Task and Finish Review Group being undertaken by the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

Summary

2. At a meeting of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 18th December, 2012 Members received an interim report on the Task and Finish Review Group work to scrutinise the operational workstreams of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust's Clinical Strategy.
3. To progress work Members established five small groups to consider each workstream in detail and met with a variety of Officers. The work of the women and children workstream concluded, as follows:-
 - a) That the Committee respond to the consultation in respect of a Midwife Led Maternity Unit and Paediatric Short Stay Assessment Unit at The Friarage Hospital.
 - b) That the Women and Children Task and Finish Review Group becomes The Friarage Task and Finish Review Group to respond to the impending consultation in respect of the Friarage Hospital and that all Members of the Scrutiny Committee be invited to attend the meetings.
4. The Consultation was launched 2nd September 2013 and Members agreed to formulate a response. All Members of the Scrutiny Committee were invited to participate in the Review and attend any of the public consultation meetings.
5. The Chair and Vice-Chair have attended a variety of meetings to assist in informing the Committee's response to the consultation and a Special meeting of the Scrutiny Committee was also held on 12th November 2013.
6. The Task and Finish Review Group met on 22nd November to formulate a response, which is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation

7. That this Scrutiny Committee retrospectively approves the response submitted by the Task and Finish Review Group, as detailed in **(Appendix 1)** of this report.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Resources

Background Papers

Children's and Maternity Services at The Friarage Hospital; The Public Consultation Document: Options for the future- NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	It is not considered that there will be a significant impact on crime and disorder as a result of this report.
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct impact on health and well-being, but the Strategic Grants do allow organisations to provide service for people which impacts positively on their health and well-being.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	All Wards will be affected.
Groups Affected	Groups within the Voluntary and Community Sector will be affected most by this report.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report has no impact on the budget or policy framework although, cabinet may agree that further work is needed to feed into the Budget Advisory Panel process.
Key Decision	This report does not constitute a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not considered an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the delivery of the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
Efficiency	The report details scrutiny and monitoring of Strategic Grants efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group launched a consultation on 2nd September 2013, entitled Children's and Maternity Services at the Friarage Hospital; The Public Consultation Document: Options for the future. Consultation ended on 25th November, 2013
9. The consultation document outlined two options, as follows;

Option 1 – developing a Paediatrics Short Stay Assessment Unit (PSSAU) at the Friarage Hospital, continuing to deliver community paediatric nursing and consultant paediatric outpatient service at the Friarage Hospital, with more specialist in-patient paediatric services being available at the James Cook University Hospital (James Cook), DMH, Harrogate District Hospital and York Hospital and investing in a Maternity Led Unit (MLU) for women with low-risk births at the Friarage Hospital and continue to provide community midwifery and outpatient services locally.

Option 2 – continuing to deliver community paediatric nursing and consultant paediatric outpatient's service at the Friarage Hospital, with more specialist in-patient paediatric services being available at the James Cook, DMH, Harrogate District Hospital and York Hospital and investing in a MLU for women with low risk births at the Friarage Hospital and continue to provide community midwifery and outpatient services locally.

10. The document clearly stated that the changes would improve the quality and safety of services for patients and their families and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have also undertaken to continue to look at other models used around the Country to see if there is an alternative solution that has not been considered yet. The CCG have also agreed to consider further options put forward as part of the consultation period.

Review Group

11. The Vice-Chair has attended a meeting of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council's Health Scrutiny Committee and the matter was also discussed by the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee.
12. The Chair has attended meetings of North Yorkshire County Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee and a Richmondshire District Council meeting to listen to their views and opinions.
13. A Special meeting of this Scrutiny Committee was held on 12th November 2013 and representatives from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provided an overview of the options. Members were particularly concerned about the impact on Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) and the capacity of the maternity and paediatrics wards.

14. Representatives from Richmondshire District Council and North Yorkshire County Council also attended the meeting to update us on the progress they have made researching into further options.
15. Members also visited DMH to view the Maternity Unit for them to seek assurance that there was physical capacity to cope with the anticipated number of births.
16. The Task and Finish Review Group met on 22nd November 2013 to finalise a response to be submitted to the consultation ahead of its deadline.
17. The response is appended to the report as **Appendix 1** and the response has been shared with colleagues in the Tees Valley, Richmondshire and North Yorkshire.

Next steps

18. It is not proposed to disband this Review Group as there may be more work required depending on the outcome of the Consultation and the viability of any further options that were submitted as part of the process.

Darlington Borough Council's Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Response to the Consultation on changes to Children's and Maternity Services at the Friarage Hospital

The Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held a special meeting on 12th November 2013, which was attended by representatives from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Members from North Yorkshire County Council and Richmondshire District Council were also invited to attend the meeting and took part in the discussion.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee wish to acknowledge the concerns of local Councillors from neighbouring Authorities have about the proposed options and the potential impact on local communities. Members have very much welcomed the opportunity to work with both North Yorkshire County Council and Richmondshire District Council throughout the consultation process, having met with representatives on a number of occasions.

The Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee consists of elected Members whose primary duty is to represent the views of residents of Darlington and to ensure that the services provided are of the highest quality. The focus of the Scrutiny Committees work in relation to this consultation has been to seek assurance from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust that Darlington Memorial Hospital has the capacity to cope with any additional numbers of women who choose to use Darlington Memorial Hospital instead of the Friarage Hospital; in terms of physical capacity and staffing; to continue to provide a safe and sustainable high quality maternity and paediatric service for Darlington and people of North Yorkshire.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee have met with the Head of Midwifery and Maternity and the Clinical lead for Obstetrics and Gynaecology and also visited to Maternity Unit at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

In the event of changes to the Friarage Hospital provision, Members are reassured from meeting clinical staff and visiting the Maternity Unit that there is capacity at Darlington Memorial Hospital to cope with a potential increase of numbers. Members accept that the Hospital could easily manage up to 2,500 births each year based on the current staffing levels and space. Members are encouraged that plans are already in place to address staffing issues if numbers creep over 2,500, as physically the Maternity Unit could cope with up to 3,000 births each year. Around 40% of the staff compliment already employed in the Maternity Unit work part time or flexible hours and therefore staffing levels could easily be flexed up in the short term while more staff was recruited, if deemed necessary.

Senior Managers have agreed to monitor any potential increase of numbers and a commitment has been given to regularly share this information with the Scrutiny Committee. Members will also monitor the wider diagnostic and antenatal services which women will access who choose to use Darlington Memorial Hospital rather than

the Friarage Hospital. Members consider that the refurbishment and expansion of the Pregnancy Assessment Unit will reduce the number of women who require beds and unnecessary early admissions; and believe that this will ensure that any additional women will not impact on the number of beds available, even during busy periods.

Members understand the benefits of Midwife Led Units and believe it be to safe and a good option for women who are deemed to be low risk and have confidence in the experienced midwives who provide the service. Midwives are experienced in identifying risks before they turn into complications and are able to arrange for an immediate transfer to a Consultant Led Unit. Members are aware of the importance of ensuring that the women are transferred to the receiving Unit as quickly as possible and welcome the work that the local Clinical Commissioning Group has undertaken with Yorkshire Ambulance Services to improve response times.

Members are pleased that there has been a commitment from the Trust Board on the Business Plan to improve the facilities within the Maternity Unit. Members particularly welcome the refurbishment of the Maternity Ward to ensure that en-suite provision is available for all women. There has been an undertaking to keep Members updated on the progress of implementation of the refurbishment and improvement of the Unit. Members believe that the anticipated additional number of births at Darlington Memorial Hospital would secure the future of Maternity Services at Darlington Memorial Hospital and secure the plans to improve and expand the Maternity Unit, including the development of a Midwife Led Unit to be co-located with the existing Consultant Led Unit.

The Scrutiny Committee are very aware of the financial constraints that the NHS operate within and acknowledge the shortage of Consultants in numerous fields across the North East Region. Members are fully committed to supporting local NHS in providing safe and sustainable high quality services across the locality and understand the Network approach that operates for specialist care and the use of Centres of Excellence. Members also welcome the good relationships between Hospital Trusts and local Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Finally, Members are aware that further options are due to be submitted ahead of the consultation deadline. Members would welcome an open and public debate on the new options to avoid delaying any decision that must be taken by the Clinical Commissioning Group.