

WITHAM LOCAL COMMITTEE – 18TH MAY 2010

TAKING FORWARD LOCAL PRIORITIES – ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Agenda item 5(b)

Portfolio Area: Housing and Wellbeing
Report Presented by: Cllr Lady Patricia Newton

Background Papers: Witham Local Committee
Corporate Implications: Please refer to table at end of report
Options: n/a
Risks: n/a

Executive Summary

Research conducted on the theme “Access to Health Services” on the specific issues raised by the Committee is as follows:-

1. Mobile scanning should be sent out to villages or areas where elderly people cannot get access (work with Council Partners.)

The screening programmes relating to older people are:-

- a) Breast Screening – A mobile unit is used for Breast Screening. It is a large lorry that needs a large concrete area to meet health and safety requirements. This limits the locations; however, the NHS Mid Essex has delivered this screening service as local as possible.
 - b) Retinopathy (Diabetic Eye Screening) – GP surgeries are used to host the screening so the appointments are as local as possible.
 - c) Bowel Screening – This is conducted by using a kit in your own home which is sent back by post. Only if complications are found will an appointment be needed at the hospital.
 - d) Braintree Community Transport offers transport at a small cost to screening appointments.
2. Encourage the PCT to extend facilities offered by doctors/build the Maltings Lane surgery and clinic facility.

The Mid Essex PCT is currently in discussion with the planners regarding the Maltings Lane development and will be undertaking a needs assessment as to how this opportunity might be best used. There are a number of options to be explored including the repatriation of funds into existing Witham practices, the development of a branch surgery or a new practice. However, given the likely funding constraints they are looking at these proposals alongside all Mid Essex priorities.

- Increase the number of GPs in Witham town to at least the average number of GPs per head of population (work with Council partners)

The PCT have an expectation that Douglas Grove development will provide additional capacity within the locality and are aware that the facility will have capacity for two new GPs.

- Professionally research and concentrate lobbying for local out-patient clinic and minor injury treatment unit in Witham town.

There is no further update from when the Matrix Research was presented to the Witham Local Committee last year.

Decision

Members note the progress made towards access to health services for the Witham area

Corporate Implications				
Financial:	None			
Legal:	n/a			
Equalities & Diversity:	Progress made towards access to health services			
Customer Impact:	Improved access to health services			
Environment & Climate Change:	n/a			
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Local Committees	WLC 18/5/10	Partners	n/a
	Public	Users	Staff	
Key Decision:	No			
Public/Private Report:	Public			
Officer Contact:	Charmaine Dean			
Designation:	Head of Community Services			
Ext No:	2740			
Email:	Charmaine.dean@braintree.gov.uk			

Minutes

Witham Local Committee

18th May 2010

Minute Extract

5 **TAKING FORWARD LOCAL PRIORITIES 2010-11 – ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES**

INFORMATION: Members considered the report presented by the Head of Communities.

Members raised the following issues:

- a) In noting the two extra GPs planned for the Douglas Grove Surgery, had account been taken of the Maltings Lane development?
- b) In noting the access to mobile scanning services, it would be helpful to check if more was required to reach the more remote settlements.
- c) With the site at Southview School becoming available, some Members thought there may be an opportunity to investigate with GPs the possibility of what services might be provided from that location.
- d) As the population of Witham was increasing, one Member thought there was a case for what was previously known as a “Cottage Hospital” to be located in the town.

The Head of Communities agreed to take the points raised back to Mid Essex PCT.

Members also agreed that the Council be asked to press Mid Essex PCT through the Local Strategic Partnership to improve Health Service facilities in the Witham area.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**
 - That the Council press NHS Mid Essex, through the Local Strategic Partnership, to improve Health Service facilities in the Witham area.
- (2) That the report on Taking Forward Local Priorities – Access to Health Services be noted.
- (3) That investigations are carried out with local GPs into possible facilities that might be located at the Southfield School site.