

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

18 June 2010

#### Whitby Hospital and the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale Strategic Review

##### Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for Members to be updated on recent developments at Whitby Hospital and on the longer term plans for the hospital coming forward as part of the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale strategic review.

##### Background

2. Members will recall that the Scrutiny of Health Committee at its meeting in January of this year requested a report within six months on the short to medium term future of services at Whitby Hospital.
3. In March of this year NHS North Yorkshire and York (NHS NY&Y) announced that from April 2010 it was temporarily closing the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) during the period 11.00pm to 8.00am and temporarily halting all general anaesthetic and endoscopy procedures at the Hospital.
4. The changes in opening hours of the MIU were brought about mainly due to the problems in recruiting emergency nurse practitioners. General anaesthetics and endoscopy procedures were halted on the basis of the operating theatres not complying with new standards of quality and safety required to be registered with the Care Quality Commission.
5. NHS NY&Y has indicated that in recent months, general anaesthetic and endoscopy procedures constitute around 56% of the theatre's workload. Patients affected by the arrangements will be notified of any potential delay or alternative locations for treatment. It has also emphasised that the theatres have not closed - all local anaesthetic procedures will continue.
6. Press releases from NHS NY&Y on both issues are enclosed as APPENDIX 1.
7. It should be noted that NHS NY&Y held a public engagement event on 25 March 2010 which County Councillor Dadd chaired. The outcome from the event will be reported orally to this meeting.

## **Introduction**

8. Jayne Brown OBE (Chief Executive) and Simon Cox (Locality Director - Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale), Janet Probert (Managing Director - Community and Mental Health Services) from NHS NY&Y and a senior representative from the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust will be attending the meeting to brief Members on developments since March and respond to questions /comments.
9. Members may wish to explore:
  - the circumstances leading up to the temporary closures and outline the consultation that took place before they were introduced;
  - progress towards recruiting emergency nurse practitioners and the extent to which there is a firm date for the overnight minor injuries service to be restored;
  - progress on the clinical review of operating theatres in Whitby (and Malton) hospital being undertaken as part of the wider review of health service in the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale areas.

## **Recommendations**

10. That Members consider the developments summarised in this report and information reported during the meeting in order to, as appropriate, offer advice to the NHS locally on:
  - a) the level of consultation undertaken before the services discussed above were temporarily suspended;
  - b) rather than suspending the services the extent to which there were other options available;
  - c) the measures being taken towards restoring the overnight minor injuries service;
  - d) issues that need to be taken into account in the clinical review of the theatres that is being undertaken as part of the wider review of health care in the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale area.

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 BH/07 June 2010

**Background Documents: None**



**North Yorkshire and York**

# MEDIA RELEASE

12 March 2010

## **Review of surgery procedures at Whitby and Malton hospitals**

NHS North Yorkshire and York will be conducting a clinical review of general surgery and endoscopy procedures at Whitby and Malton hospitals in light of new regulations from the independent health regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

From April 2010, all providers of health and adult social care will be required by law to be registered with the CQC. Providers must demonstrate that they are meeting new essential standards of quality and safety across all of the regulated activities they provide. This includes surgical procedures.

North Yorkshire and York Community and Mental Health Services (which manages services at Whitby and Malton hospitals on behalf of NHS North Yorkshire and York) has already reviewed all of its care settings to check that they comply with the new regulations. This review found that significant investment was required for the operating theatres at Whitby hospital to continue conducting general anaesthetic and endoscopy procedures there in light of new regulations.

General anaesthetic and endoscopy work at Malton hospital can continue, as the review of facilities there concluded that theatres are compliant with CQC registration requirements. Only some minor improvements are needed to the theatre environment to ensure full compliance.

Sue Metcalfe, Deputy Chief Executive of NHS North Yorkshire and York, said: "Whitby Community Hospital continues to be an important asset in the delivery of health services on the east coast and is part of our plan for the

future delivery of care for local people. This is reflected in a recent £1million investment which has seen replacement of the roof and all windows in the hospital. This refurbishment is now nearing completion.

“We will be conducting a clinical review of operating theatres at Whitby and Malton hospitals as part of our wider review of health services in Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale. We know this review, which has been prompted by circumstances beyond our control, will cause concern for people but we cannot emphasise enough that these hospitals are an important part of our future strategy.

“Whilst we are conducting this review we will be temporarily halting all general anaesthetic and endoscopy work from 1 April 2010 at Whitby Community Hospital. All patients listed to be treated at Whitby during this period will be notified of any potential delay or alternative locations for treatment. We will maximise the use of the operating theatres at Whitby during this time for local anaesthetic procedures which can continue unaffected.”

## **NOTES TO EDITOR**

### **Background**

NHS North Yorkshire and York hosts (through North Yorkshire and York Community and Mental Health Services) the staff and facilities for surgical procedures at Whitby and Malton Community Hospitals. The procedures cover general surgery under general and local anaesthetic and endoscopies. These are carried out by both local GPs with specialist skills and visiting surgeons from Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust.

At Whitby Community Hospital, approximately 36 patients per month undergo procedures requiring general anaesthetic and 15 undergo endoscopies. The majority of the work is under local anaesthetic, with approximately 69 patients a month having a procedure requiring a local anaesthetic.

From April 2010, all health and adult social care providers who provide regulated activities, including surgical procedures, will be required by law to

be registered with the Care Quality Commission. The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. Providers must demonstrate that they are meeting new essential standards of quality and safety across all of the regulated activities they provide.

### **Current situation**

A full review has been undertaken of the Whitby and Malton theatre facilities to assess full compliance with the regulations to enable the continuation of surgical and endoscopy procedures at these community hospitals. This review has covered staffing skills and capacity, suitability of equipment and the fabric of the theatre suites.

### **Malton Community Hospital**

A pre registration review by JAG (the Joint Accreditation Group for endoscopy that determines standards of endoscopy) and a building compliance review have concluded that the current services delivered there are compliant with the CQC registration requirements. There are, however, some minor improvements needed to the theatre environment to ensure full compliance.

### **Whitby Community Hospital**

A pre JAG review on endoscopy is awaited but a building compliance review has shown that the theatre ventilation system which filters anaesthetic gases requires upgrading in order to meet the CQC registration requirements as well a general refurbishment to include flooring, some electrical work and redecoration.

### **Ends**

**For further information contact the NHS North Yorkshire and York Communications Team on 01423 859616**



North Yorkshire and York  
Community and Mental Health Services

# MEDIA RELEASE

12 March 2010

## **Temporary changes to Minor Injuries Unit at Whitby**

Whitby Community Hospital's Minor Injuries Unit will temporarily close overnight from 1 April 2010 to ensure patient safety.

The overnight service, which operates between 11pm and 8am, will be suspended temporarily from 1 April 2010 whilst ongoing efforts are made to recruit suitably skilled nurse practitioners. This decision does not affect the day time service which will continue to provide safe, effective and high quality care.

Janet Probert, Managing Director of North Yorkshire and York Community and Mental Health Services, said: "Whitby Community Hospital is an important asset in the delivery of local health services and its recent £1million refurbishment is a testament to this.

"We recognise the important role that Whitby's minor injuries unit plays for local people. However we have been unable to recruit the specialist staff we need to keep the overnight service open so regrettably we will be closing it temporarily from 1 April.

"We don't expect this to affect many people as our overnight staff have been seeing on average less than seven people a week. Our first concern is to make sure that the unit is staffed properly for people when they need it most, which is during the day when it is busy.

"We have been doing everything we can behind the scenes to find a way of preserving the overnight service, with our staff pulling out all the stops to keep it open until now. We will continue with our recruitment process and we aim to reopen the minor injuries unit once this is resolved."

## **Accessing alternative treatment**

The following services are available for people who need urgent health advice or attention in the evening or over night:

- In a serious or life-threatening situation, such as choking, chest pain, severe bleeding or blackout, call 999
- Call your GP Practice to access the Out of Hours GP service if you have a medical complaint which cannot wait until your surgery is next open
- Confidential advice and information about medical conditions and NHS services is available from NHS Direct by calling 0845 46 47

**Ends**

**For further information contact the North Yorkshire and York Community and Mental Health Services' Communications Team on 01904 724 353 / 01845 573913.**