

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE****8 July 2010****Proposed Relocation of the Dental Clinic Covering the Harrogate Borough Area****Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for Members to have a clear understanding and comment on the proposed relocation of the dental clinic from Ripon Community Hospital to Kingswood House in Harrogate.

Introduction

2. NHS NY&Y are seeking the Scrutiny of Health Committee's comments on the proposed relocation of the dental clinic from Ripon Community Hospital to Kingswood House, 14 Wetherby Road, Harrogate, HG2 7SA.
3. This proposal was reviewed as part of mid-cycle briefing meetings with leading members of the Committee prior to the General Election. Whilst accepting that the proposal is clinically appropriate and that the existing service is not specific to the Ripon area exclusively, in order to ensure that the views of local Members are taken into account, this report has been brought to Committee for further consideration. Members are asked to consider the proposals, as set out in the attached Appendix.
4. A representative from NHS NY&Y will be attending the meeting to provide additional information and respond to Members' questions/comments.

Recommendations

5. That Members comment on the proposed relocation of the dental clinic covering the Harrogate Borough area and invite the Chairman to notify NHS NY&Y accordingly.

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Written & Presented by Bryon Hunter
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BH/24 June 2010

Background Documents: None

Dental Clinic, Ripon Community Hospital

Service provided: The clinic provides dental treatment for children, adults and older people who, because of additional needs such as learning disability, physical disability or vulnerability are unable to access general dental care in the Harrogate Borough area.

Access to the clinic is by written referral from a health, education or social services professional. It is staffed by dentists employed directly by NHS NY&Y who provide sessions 1 day every month.

The clinic does not provide any emergency dental services – these are currently provided at the Harrogate community dental services as a resource for the Harrogate Borough area.

Background: Work carried out in June 2009 identified the following issues with regard to the clinic:

- Poor facilities: including small size, poor climate control available, isolated position in the building, infection control concerns about old equipment/cabinetry and lack of a reception.
- Service accessibility: only one clinic a month is held here, none during school holidays and limited choice for patients.
- Treatment options: basic equipment means only a limited number of procedures can be carried out in this facility. Patients requiring hoists, sedation or general anaesthesia access community dental services at Harrogate, as do patients requiring urgent care.

Initial actions: It was concluded that capital investment in the existing facilities would not be viable particularly as NHS NY&Y's Dental Consultant observed that the premises are not fit for purpose.

Service users were reviewed and consulted and an options appraisal concluded that:

- Relocation of the service would affect a very small number of special needs patients.
- Domiciliary visits could continue and transport could be arranged to Harrogate as required.

Service user feedback indicated that existing users are confident that they will receive a better standard of care at Harrogate with more choice and flexibility around the dates and times for when they can access routine treatment. They were also assured that they would be treated by the same members of staff, continuity of care

being a factor for some of the client groups within the community dental service. The only areas of concern for clients was around car parking for which there are dedicated disabled parking spaces at the Harrogate surgery and large car park at the Harrogate Foundation Hospital site opposite the premises.

Detailed patient review: A detailed review found that five patients could continue with domiciliary care from Harrogate, 10 patients could be returned to their general dentist once treatment was complete, two patients could transfer to Northallerton and nine patients could be transferred to Harrogate. Of these nine, four had visited the Harrogate site previously for treatment.

Staff consultation: The staff in this service have been fully supportive of this review and the conclusions reached throughout. They are currently based in Harrogate and outreach to Ripon so there would be no impact. They would be keen to be able to use the equipment currently in Ripon and used infrequently in a third clinic room in Harrogate and therefore be able to expand the number of appointment slots and treatments available here.

Proposal for usage of vacated space: The Adult Services Manager with responsibility for Ripon Hospital and the Site Manager have been aware for some time that this space may become available. It consists of a small waiting area, with no reception, and a clinic room. A number of services who currently operate out of premises within Ripon have expressed an interest in using this space.

It is currently a small space, but once the dental equipment has been removed there will be a full review of the opportunities this brings to some of these services. Priority will be given to services that are currently struggling to manage their demand in their existing space and to services which can utilise the space for the maximum amount of the working week. If possible it is hoped several services will be able to work together to optimise usage.

The League of Friends of Ripon Hospital will be involved in the decision making process.

Organisational impact: Continuing to keep this clinic open would carry a continuing cost to the organisation and significant investment would be needed to upgrade this accommodation. This would not address issues of location or service accessibility. Releasing this space will enable more effective use to be made of the existing space, whilst available space at Harrogate will utilise the existing equipment to extend their scope.

The proposed change has full clinical support, will increase choice and has been informed by full engagement with existing service users.