

Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel

**Agenda
Item No.**

DATE: 4 January 2011

7

Update on Transforming Community Services (TCS) in Walsall

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor McCracken – Social Care and Health

Report:

Introduction

This report is an update for OSC members on the Transforming Community Services (TCS) programme, following on from reports to OSC on 14 September, 5 October and 26 October and the OSC's formal response to the consultation exercise run by NHS Walsall in October 2010.

It gives more details of the proposed transfer of services that have to be made to enable NHS Walsall to divest itself completely on any parts of its current organisation that provide health services directly.

These plans have been drawn up to ensure that NHS Walsall, as leader of the local NHS, puts in place appropriate arrangements to satisfy the requirements of national policy on the complete separation of commissioning (buying) health services from providing those services by the deadline of 1 April 2011.

The report also gives a summary timetable up to the final transfer deadline.

Individual Transfers

Transfer of community services to an Acute and Community Integrated Care Organisation

The majority of Community services currently provided by Walsall Community Health (including Children's and Lifestyle services) are to transfer to a new Community Integrated Care Organisation based around the Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust establishment.

A Transition Board to oversee the transfer was created under the Chairmanship of Dr Phil Begg Chair of Walsall Community Health. A number of work streams were identified, such as estates, operational finance, and organisational development, clinical and corporate governance. Progress is reported to the Transition Board on a regular basis.

Transfer of services for people with Learning Disabilities to Sandwell Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (SMHNHSFT)

All services for people with Learning Disabilities (LD) are to transfer to Sandwell Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust. (SMHNHSFT)

This model of transfer is also being followed by the PCTs in Dudley and Wolverhampton, which will result in a Black Country wide service as Sandwell services are already with the Trust. The project for transfer is being undertaken by a combined Transition Board, for which SMHNHSFT is providing project management support.

Work streams have been developed which cover commissioning intentions, infrastructure issues and clinical strategy development. Representatives from Walsall Community Health are on all work streams. The requirements of Monitor are stringent and require a full business plan to be developed by SMHNHSFT.

Transfer of Salaried Dental Services to Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust

All Salaried Dental Services will transfer to the new Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust.

This model of service transfer is also being followed by the PCTs in Dudley and Sandwell. We understand Wolverhampton PCT are proposing to transfer Dental Services to the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust.

Birmingham Community Healthcare (BCHC) NHS Trust provides community and specialist NHS services within South Birmingham and beyond. They employ 3,265 staff, and operate 270 beds across 3 sites and services are delivered from 112 sites currently. The organisation was previously known as South Birmingham Community Health, the provider arm within NHS South Birmingham. Independent NHS Trust status was achieved on 1 November 2010.

Blakenall Meadow GP Practice

The NHS Walsall Board previously considered a Social Enterprise application from the Blakenall Meadow GP Practice. This proposal was not supported by the Board.

NHS Walsall will now conduct an open procurement exercise to identify a new provider of General Practice services, to commence in April 2012.

Interim arrangements for the management of the Blakenall Meadow list will be put into place effective from 1 April 2011. There will be no change to services currently provided as a result of these new arrangements.

Formal Consultation, Communication and Involvement:

With the agreement of OSC, NHS Walsall carried out a formal four week public consultation in October 2010.

The only proposal to generate a significant reaction was the transfer of LD services to Sandwell. Some 35 responses were received, with a consistent theme being concern about transferring management of these services to a larger organisation based outside Walsall.

These responses have been shared with the relevant Boards.

The majority of responses on LD came via the Walsall Carers Centre and a meeting is being arranged to discuss the proposals in more detail.

Next Steps

There is still a considerable amount of work to do to finalise arrangements for these transfers, and the deadline remains a challenging one, particularly in regard to the number of approvals that have to be gained from external regulators.

The timetable for the remainder of the TCS programme is set out below:

TCS Timetable


Date	Actions
Dec 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree final drafts of legal agreements • Start formal TUPE consultation • Agree final list of assets transferring to the Trust • Agree final lists of estates, equipment, records, IP, IM&T and other corporate services being made available to the Trust from the Completion Date • Submissions to SHA/Secretary of State for regulatory approvals (unless SHA/ Secretary of State have agreed an earlier date)
Jan/Feb 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive final regulatory approvals
Mid-March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of TUPE consultation • Final reports to Trust / PCT Boards • Trust Board meetings to approve Transfer • PCT Board meeting to approve Transfer
End March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update risk register, litigation profile and workforce profile • Parties sign legal agreements
1 April 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfers take effect

Recommendations:

That Members Note:

1. Further progress made on the TCS programme.
2. The challenge faced by NHS Walsall in meeting the final deadlines.
3. The commitment of all participating organisations to continued engagement with all key stakeholders.

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