

**Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Agenda Item No.**

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**6**

Proposed relocation of Dental General Anaesthetic Services

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:** Councillor Robertson - Health  
Councillor Diane Coughlan - Social Care

**Executive Summary:**

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BCHC) currently provides Secondary and Community Dental Services for all West Midland patients within Birmingham Dental Hospital as well within community locations across Birmingham, Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley. The Trust has endeavoured to maintain services under General Anaesthesia not just within Birmingham Dental Hospital, but also through usage of theatres within the following locations:

**Paediatric Patients**

Birmingham Dental Hospital  
Russell Hall Hospital, Dudley  
Sandwell General Hospital, Sandwell  
Walsall Manor Hospital, Walsall

**Special Care Patients**

Spire Healthcare, Solihull  
Nuffield Hospital, Wolverhampton

However, there are various problems the service now faces which pose a risk to the service configuration above.

The Trust has been working over the last year and has identified a preferred option to enter into a lease agreement to take space in a new development being built by Calthorpe Estates on a plot adjacent to the new Dental Hospital.

We are now looking at two options:

**Option 1:** Lease space to provide one theatre and relocate services currently based in the temporary facility at Birmingham Dental Hospital

**Option 2:** Lease space to provide two theatre and relocate all GA services from their current locations include all those in the locations as described above:

The Trust are currently working on the Business Case for these two options with the intention of identifying a preferred option in March 2018. The Business Case

has identified key benefits for the development of a new facilities and centralising all the GA services into one location:

- High quality, purpose built facilities to meet the needs of the service and enhance the users experience
- Provides long term stability of the service and ensure BCHC has the capacity to provide this service in the same location for many years to come
- Increased theatre capacity to help reduce waiting times across the West Midlands
- Create a centre of excellence for these services and support the training of Dental Care Professionals for the West Midlands.

The downside of this option of course is that these services will no longer be provided as close to home as they are currently. To a large extent the option to continue to deliver services in its current form is not a viable option. However, given the potential impact the Trust wishes to consult upon this decision with relevant local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees to ensure they are both aware and have had an opportunity to have oversight.

**Reason for scrutiny:**

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust (BCHC) working with its partners from NHS England wishes to consult upon this decision with relevant local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees to ensure they are both aware and have had an opportunity to have oversight.

**Recommendations:**

**That:**

1. The Board supports the project's aim to safeguard the delivery of Dental Services under General Anaesthesia through the centralisation of provision within a bespoke specialist facility within Birmingham Dental Hospital

**Background papers:**

Not Applicable

**Contact Officer:**

Ben Cochrane

Full Name – Divisional Director Dental Services, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

## 1. Birmingham Community Health Care, Dental Services Division

- 1.1 BCHC provides high quality, accessible and responsive community and specialist services within Birmingham and the West Midlands. The Trust delivers over 100 clinical services in patient's homes and in over 400 hospitals, health centres and clinics. The Trust provides services for adults, children, people with learning disabilities, and those with rehabilitation needs.
- 1.2 The Trust's Dental Division operates the Birmingham Dental Hospital, in partnership with the University of Birmingham's School of Dentistry, and also delivers a wide range of Community Dental Services (CDS) across Birmingham, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.
- 1.3 As well as providing Dental Services under General Anaesthesia within various hospital locations including Walsall Manor Hospital the Trust also provides Community Dental Services for Walsall specifically within the following locations:
- Blakenall Village Centre (Dental Access Centre)
  - Brace Street Clinic
  - Brownhills - (Parkview Health Centre)
  - Pinfold Health Centre
  - Darlaston Health Centre
- 1.4 General Anaesthesia allows for the provision of medical and dental diagnostic and surgical invasive procedures. Dental treatment under general anaesthetic is an essential treatment modality to provide medically necessary care where the surgical intervention is complex, or required for those patients who are cognitively immature, highly anxious or fearful; unable to tolerate treatment under sedation; or may have a severe disability or medical condition which does not allow for the patient to be able to receive dental treatment in any other way.
- 1.5 Whenever possible Dental treatment will be provided in a primary care setting either through local anaesthetic, inhalation sedation or intravenous sedation. The Division's Paediatric and Special Care Dental service will continue to provide for those patients unable to be treated by a General Dental Practice for adults and children within its current Walsall based clinics through either of these methods. The Outline Business Case is based on the retention of these key services for local populations meaning treatment under general anaesthetic is not the default option for patients and is only used as a last resort.
- 1.6 Current numbers for 2017-18 for patients in Walsall for these treatments are below and demonstrate the heavy emphasis of what is delivered locally

	<b>April 2017 to Jan 2018</b>	
	<b>Paediatric Patients</b>	<b>Special Care (Adults)</b>
Walsall Manor (GA)	196 (35%)	
Nuffield (GA) Black Country		12 (11%)
Walsall Community Clinics (Inhalation or IV Sedation)	366 (65%)	101 (89%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>113</b>

## 2.0 Outline Business Case

2.1 The Trust faces various problems which pose a risk to the delivery of Dental Services under General Anaesthetic:

2.1.1 Birmingham Dental Hospital's current Theatre is based within a building with temporary planning permission granted on the basis that a permanent solution would be found.

2.1.2 Russell Hall Hospital gave notice on the use of their theatres earlier this year forcing the service to have to accommodate patients in Sandwell.

2.1.3 Walsall Manor have over the last two years reduced the theatre capacity available to the Dental Service for the last two winters forcing the relocation of patients to other hospitals.

2.1.4 Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust have indicated that they will not be able to provide theatre space at Sandwell General Hospital in the long term.

2.1.5 Service Level Agreement costs at both Nuffield and Spire Parkway mean that the service is chronically unable to deliver services within an affordable cash envelope. Moreover these services are not ideally located for the patients we serve.

2.2 Regionally and nationally theatre capacity to cope with increasing demand has presented problems for delivery of services within 18 week waiting times within increasing constrained financial resources. Attempts have been made by BCHC with all Trusts including Walsall's to secure additional theatre capacity to deliver our services without success. The Trust has therefore been forced to work over the last year to identify its own space to do this and has identified a preferred option to enter into a lease agreement to take space in a new development being built by Calthorpe Estates on a plot adjacent to the new Dental Hospital.

2.3 The Trust is therefore now looking at two options:

**Option 1:** Lease space to provide one theatre and relocate services currently based in the temporary facility at Birmingham Dental Hospital

**Option 2:** Lease space to provide two theatres and relocate all GA services from their current locations include all those in Walsall and other Black Country locations:

2.4 The Trust is currently working on the Business Case for these two options with the intention of identifying a preferred option in April 2018. To date we have identified the following key benefits of the new facilities and centralising all the GA services into one location:

- High quality, purpose built facilities to meet the needs of the service and enhance the users experience
- Provides long term stability of the service and ensure BCHC has the capacity to provide this service in the same location for many years to come

- Increased theatre capacity to help reduce waiting times across the West Midlands
- Create a centre of excellence for these services and support the training of Dental Care Professionals for the West Midlands.

### **3.0 Patient Engagement**

3.1 The downside of centralising these services of course is that these services will no longer be provided as close to home as they are currently. The Trust has therefore sought to engage with patients across the Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley. Appendix 1 details the results of that survey carried out with patients who have used our services.

3.2 Key headlines in relation to the responses

- 28 people responded
- 43% of respondents recently received or cared for patients that received services from Walsall Manor
- 71% of our respondents had access to a car to get to their appointment
- 37% of respondents would need to travel over 10 miles to reach an appointment at Birmingham Dental Hospital
- 27% believed it would take them over an hour to reach an appointment at Birmingham Dental Hospital
- 46% had a negative view on being required to make the journey for a variety of reasons including the cost, the time it would take to make the journey and parking.

3.3 Clearly transport will be an issue and the service will be looking to explore transport options for patients. It will also be looking to ensure that non-attendance is followed up proactively for children and other vulnerable patient through a nurse led part of the service.

### **4.0 Conclusions and next steps**

4.1 The Trust's options to ensure the continuation of these services are limited. Therefore whilst it is clear that the local residents of Walsall would prefer to not travel for this treatment, BCHC have been unable to find a viable alternatives to the centralisation of services through other provider's hospitals.

4.2 The Trust is not able to finance the development of separate local alternatives. Furthermore, the amount of activity for the whole of Birmingham and the Black Country will only require 2 theatres.

4.3 The pathway is such that the patient will only revert to service under GA where other options, including inhalation and intravenous sedation is not possible. The current service model supports this locally in Walsall and will continue to do so, both minimising the need to refer on to the Dental Hospital and exposing the patient to an unnecessary GA.

- 4.4 Access to transportation will need to be considered as part of the service model with the service ensuring there are robust safeguarding processes to ensure attendance of children and vulnerable patients.

**Recommendations:**

**That:**

1. The Board supports the projects aims to safeguard the delivery of Dental Services under General Anaesthesia through the centralisation of provision within a bespoke specialist facility within Birmingham Dental Hospital



Birmingham Community Healthcare   
NHS Foundation Trust

## Patient Experience Survey

# Relocation of General Anaesthesia Services

January - February 2018

Produced by Nadeem Hussain

*Patient Experience Team*

## Introduction

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is committed to improving the quality of care given to patients. Patients' views are a very important part of this process. A total of 28 responses was received from customer regarding Relocation of General Anaesthesia Services. All responses are anonymous. Comments can be found at the end of this survey

### 1. Please can you indicate who is completing this questionnaire

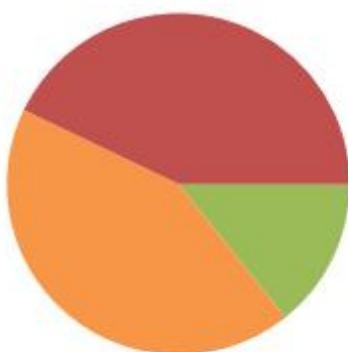
Non Scoring, 27 responses



Distribution of results  
 3.7% I am the patient  
 96.3% I am the patients carer...

### 2. What site did you attend for your GA appointment

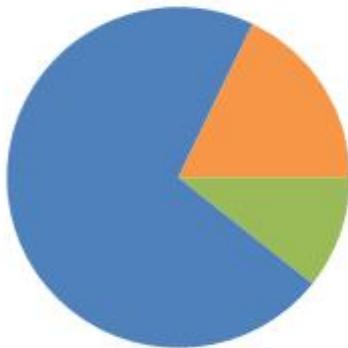
Non Scoring, 28 responses



Distribution of results  
 14.29% Nuffield Hospit...  
 0% Spire Healthcar...  
 42.86% Walsall Manor Hospital...  
 42.86% Sandwell General Hospital,...

3. How did you travel to that site for treatment?

Non Scoring, 28 responses

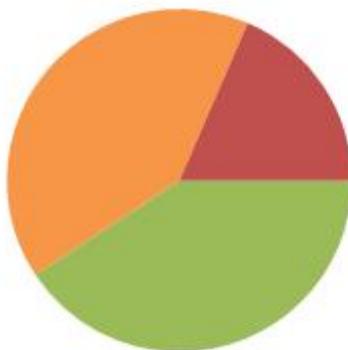


Distribution of results

10.71% Bus  
71.43% Car  
0% Train  
17.86% Taxi  
0% Hospital Trans...

4. To get to the that site how far did you have to travel?

Non Scoring, 27 responses

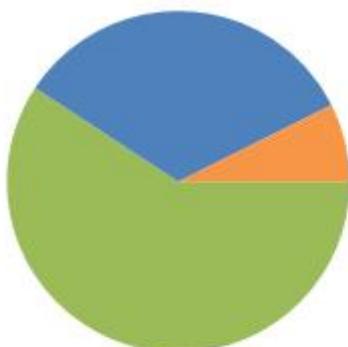


Distribution of results

40.74% 0-5 miles  
40.74% 5-10 miles  
18.52% 10 miles or over

5. To get to that site how long did it take you?

Non Scoring, 27 responses

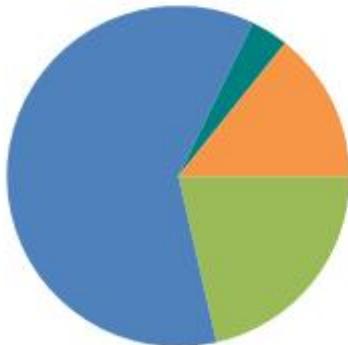


Distribution of results

59.26% Up to 30 mins  
33.33% 30-60 mins  
7.41% Over an hour  
0% Two hours and...

6. If GA services were to be located to Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry, 5 Mill Pool Way, Edgbaston B5 7EG, how do you think you would travel there?

Non Scoring, 28 responses

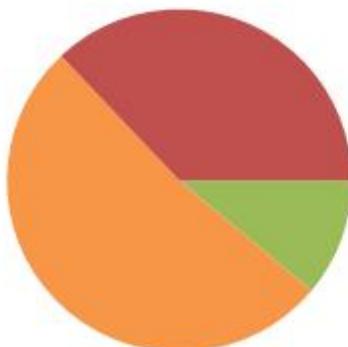


Distribution of results

21.43% Bus  
60.71% Car  
3.57% Train  
14.29% Taxi  
0% Hospital Trans...

7. If GA services were to be located to Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry, 5 Mill Pool Way, Edgbaston B5 7EG, how far would you have to travel?

Non Scoring, 27 responses



Distribution of results

11.11% 0-5 miles  
51.85% 5-10 miles  
37.04% 10 miles or over

8. If GA services were to be located to Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry, 5 Mill Pool Way, Edgbaston B5 7EG, how long would your travel time be?

Non Scoring, 26 responses

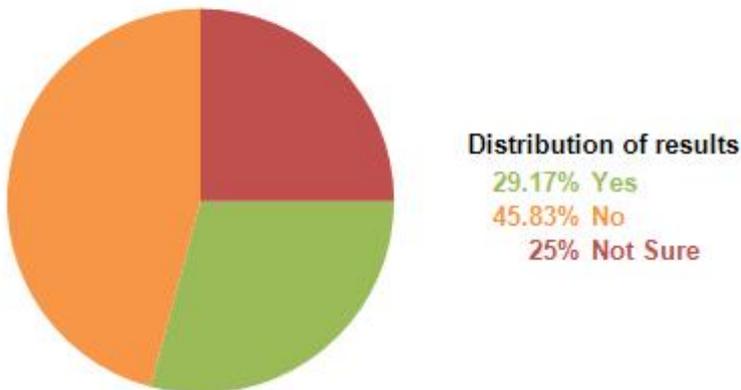


Distribution of results

19.23% Up to 30 mins  
53.85% 30-60 mins  
26.92% Over an hour  
0% Two hours and...

**9. If your travel time would be over one hour, do you feel this is acceptable for a one off treatment?**

**Non Scoring, 24 responses**



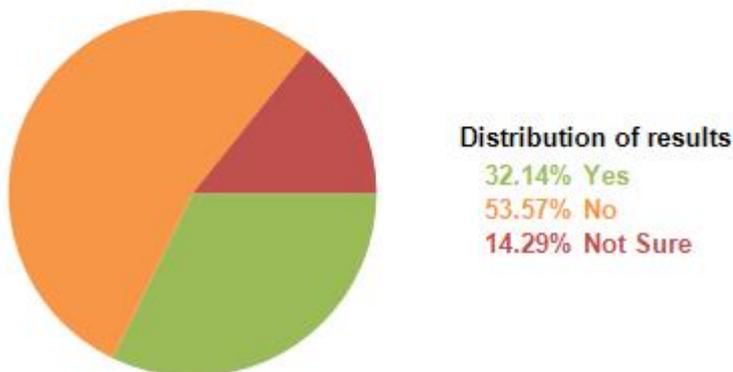
**Q10) Please explain reason for your response**

- It's far. It would cost me a fortune to get there and back. Plus my son suffers with anxiety. So he would be 100x worse the traffic is always terrible
- As travel time up to an hour for medical reasons is not much of an issue
- As it was important for him to have it.
- Working parents - time off work unpaid so would lose out.
- (Regarding Q.6 - 'Car' was also selected)
- (Regarding Q.6 - 'Train' was also selected)
- My main concern is transport service.
- (Regarding Q.6 - 'Taxi' was also selected.)
- After treatment, children want to be home ASAP not travelling a long time to get home. Also, if parents do not drive, taxi costs would be higher as I wouldn't want my child to have to go on public transport after going under GA.
- Would have to catch 2 buses, then find my way to the hospital and as a single parent of 4, would have to arrange childcare - too far to travel.
- (Regarding Q.6 - Car, Train and Taxi were also selected)
- Too far to travel.
- I would be less likely to use if it was so far.

- Birmingham would be fine as long as there is adequate parking.
- It would be too far to travel.
- Too far away to travel.

**11. Would you have any difficulties regarding transport if GA services were located to Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry, 5 Mill Pool Way, Edgbaston B5 7EG?**

**Non Scoring, 28 responses**



**12. Please explain reason for your response**

- Not as far as Sandwell general hospital, Sandwell
- No, as I have a car.
- Motorway is always crazy.
- No because I could get transport but if it's that far from 5 miles to 10 miles, I'm not sure if I could get there.
- My concern is transport.
- I do not drive, so if I could not get a lift, it would be costly.
- As previously mentioned.
- (Regarding Q.6 - Car, Train and Taxi were also selected)
- It would be too expensive for taxi and trains would get to the point.
- Have use of car but do not like driving around Birmingham in busy times.
- I don't drive so would have to rely on a lift from family member and it is too far away.
- I would still have to use a car to transport my son. Is the parking going to be free?  
It was at Nuffield.

**Do you have any other concerns if GA services were to be located to Birmingham Dental Hospital and School of Dentistry, 5 Mill Pool Way, Edgbaston B5 7EG?**

- No other concern if GA services were to be located to Birmingham Dental Hospital.
- If GA services were only available in one place, waiting times would be longer.
- (Regarding Q.6 - Car, Train and Taxi were also selected)
- It would be far to travel with young children.
- Adequate and close parking is a must. Dealing with a child after GA means we need our car to be close.
- No concerns.
- None
- Wouldn't be able to attend as it is too far to travel.
- Parking fees?