

Royal Edinburgh Hospital and Astley Ainslie Hospital: Meeting between NHS Lothian and Community Councils in South Edinburgh

Representatives of GPCC, Marchmont Sciennes, Morningside, Merchiston, Tollcross, Southside, Craiglockhart and Fairmilehead Community Councils have arranged to meet senior officers from NHS Lothian on 17th November to hear latest plans for the Royal Edinburgh and Astley Ainslie Hospitals.

Representatives met at a pre-meeting on 11th November and agreed there were two main aspects to the discussion (1) Health provision (2) Planning issues. Please also refer to the note by Tony Harris appended to the Planning report on the issues raised during a joint walkabout of the AAH site.

In advance of the meeting we agreed to ask NHS Lothian to provide:

- The latest version of the plans for both sites
- List of service provisions, both existing in 2011 and proposed for the future
- Financial rules relating to possible sale of AAH

Health

Detailed discussions about Health provision such as psychiatric emergency services, long-term psychiatric care etc. are possibly better dealt with by other groups, e.g. NP subgroups on Health and Wellbeing, SEPPF etc. However, we need to know what will be provided locally and how much is expected to be delivered in the community rather than in hospital, especially plans for patients now in long-stay beds in the REH.

Policy and Finance:

- The reason for the proposal
Why is it necessary to amalgamate the two hospitals rather than renovating each on its own site?
- Financial justification
How are the financial figures for the various options obtained and justified?
Are these figures available for examination by the public?
Where will the money come from and how is it to be guaranteed for future years?
What are the relative costs of developing on AAH site compared to re-provisioning on REH site
Have projected savings to the NHS been costed against projected increases in Local Authority social care budgets by moving services into the community, and will LAs be compensated?
Will there be any ring fencing by the Scottish Government of money received from the sale of any part(s) of the site(s) and if so for what purpose?
- Timescale and phasing
- Effect on patients

Service provision:

- An itemised review of existing and proposed services.
- Services which will be expanded, decreased, closed, moved from AAH to REH, or moved into the community
In particular: the Smart centre, stroke rehabilitation, psychology service, Dial-a-Bus, services operating at the Blackford building
- Ward design, including single v multi-bed rooms
- Location of new community based services: local, regional, national

Planning

- Land sales
 - Which parts, if any, of the REH site will be sold?
 - Which parts of the AAH site will be sold and what constraints are imposed by conditions of the Trust? What are the plans for a North/South or an East/West split?
 - What plans are there for sale to CEC for re-provisioning of local schools
- Retention/preservation/location of specific features
 - Therapeutic and community gardens, chapel, listed buildings, listed trees, core paths, rights of way, green access
- Conservation status and quality of build
 - Constraints of AAH being in a Conservation area.
 - Retaining 'good' buildings and clearing away unsympathetic extensions.
- Land and buildings in other ownership
 - The Kennedy Tower, Napier building at the AAH, Woodburn House, the bowling green

Other Infrastructure

- Main vehicular and pedestrian access
- Bus services at Myreside
- Parking for staff, patients and visitors
 - Who will run it, and charges

Community consultation and involvement

- Not just south Edinburgh, not just Edinburgh but the whole of Scotland
- Bodies to be involved
 - Community Councils
 - Patient groups
 - Other local organisations and health charities representing various user groups
 - Community and patient representation on project Planning Board
- Future meetings
 - Public meetings - where and when
 - Another meeting or regular meetings between us

John Palmer, Sue Tritton, Tony Harris
GPCC