

Consultation on Proposals for Improved Access to GP Services in Darlington

This consultation document details how Darlington Primary Care Trust (PCT) is proposing to implement recommendations relating to the development of GP led health centres/services included in Professor Lord Ara Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review Interim Report (published in October 2007). The consultation period will run from 2 May 2008 until 4 August 2008.

Background

On 13 December 2007, the Secretary of State announced a national programme to deliver extended and improved access to GP services. This programme is intended to address inequalities and improve the quality of primary care. Across England there will be 150 GP led health centres and 100 new GP practices in areas of greatest need. These centres must reflect local need and circumstance and maximise the scope for co-location with other community-based services. Darlington PCT will procure a GP led health centre using a fair, open and transparent procurement process that all eligible providers can take part in.

What Darlington PCT wants to do

The national programme is intended to address inequalities and improve health in the areas with the most need. Although there are a number of areas in Darlington with high levels of need, the evidence of a rigorous health needs assessment has shown that the area of greatest need is Darlington town centre. For this reason it is proposed that the GP led health centre should be integrated and co-located with the Walk in Centre at Doctor Piper House, but the PCT is keen to know your views on this.

The purpose of this GP led health centre:

- To ensure the location of the centre is in the most deprived area of the PCT
- To improve access and equity for hard to reach groups and this could be through developing outreach services
- To reduce health inequalities and improve health and well being
- To increase health promotion and address the wider determinants of health
- To address worklessness and social exclusion through partnership working
- To deliver fair, personalised, effective and safe services.

The main features of the GP led Health Centre will be:

- Any member of the public will be able to access GP services from 8am until 8pm seven days per week
- The location will be easily accessible
- There will be both bookable appointments and walk-in services
- There will be access for non-registered patients

- There will be significant opportunities to improve patient care and reduce health inequalities through delivery of specialist and outreach services
- There will be increased health promotion services such as healthy eating and lifestyle advice and support will be available
- There will be improved access and equity for hard to reach groups
- There will be services that integrate with other out-of-hospital and community services
- There will be opportunities to develop more creative models of care.

What services will be delivered

The PCT has identified a number of services that could be delivered in the new health centre, including:

- Cervical screening
- Child health surveillance
- Minor surgery
- Maternity medical services
- A contraceptive service including intrauterine contraceptive device (IUCD) and contraceptive implants
- Childhood immunisations and pre-school boosters
- Influenza and pneumococcal immunisations
- Other vaccinations and immunisations
- Alcohol misuse
- Anti-coagulation
- Minor injury
- Near patient testing
- Cardiovascular screening
- Mental health and learning disability services
- Smoking cessation
- Weight management
- Sexual health.

Your Views

Your views on the new GP led health centre are very important to Darlington PCT and we would particularly value any comments on the proposed location of the Health Centre, the proposed services to be delivered there and, because the PCT will be inviting providers to tender for delivering the services, the criteria that you think should be used for assessing these potential providers.

Further information and the opportunity to put forward your views will be available at meetings to be held on the following dates:

- Talking Together - Coleridge Centre, Ribble Drive, Skerne Park, Darlington DL1 5TY
Wednesday 7th May, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

- Talking Together - Maidendale House Community Centre, Burnside Road, Firthmoor, Darlington DL1 4SU
Saturday 10th May, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon
- Talking Together - Harrowgate Hill Primary School, Thompson Street West, Darlington DL3 0HZ
Saturday 17th May, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon
- Proposed New GP Led Health Centre Consultation Event - Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington DL3 7AX
Wednesday 25th June, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- GOLD (Growing Older Living in Darlington) meeting - Havelock Street Community Centre, Katherine Street, Darlington DL1 2JE
Monday 7th July, 10.15 am - 12.00 noon

In addition, you can:

- Complete an online questionnaire at: www.darlingtonpct.nhs.uk
- E-mail your views to: amanda.dexter@darlingtonpct.nhs.uk
- Write to us at:

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Additional Copies of this document can be downloaded from the PCT website or by contacting: amanda.dexter@darlingtonpct.nhs.uk

Paper copies, large print versions, other languages and formats are available on request from:

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Publishing the results of the consultation

The results of this consultation will also be available on the PCT website or by contacting us at the address above after 31 August 2008.