

GP-led Health Centres meeting – 29th October

Attendees:

Cllr Pauleen Grahame
Cllr Graham Kirkland
Emma Wilson
Laura Nield

- Members wished to clarify what the new GP-led service will offer, and also how it will be funded.
- There will be three elements to the service offered by the new facility:
 - The option to register as a patient in the normal way
 - The option to walk in and request an appointment if not registered
 - The option to walk in and wait to see a doctor if not registered.
- The opening hours will also be extended – 8am-8pm, 7 days a week.
- The service will only be a GP service. However, the difference to an existing walk-in centre will be that the GPs will be able to refer patients to other services directly, rather than sending them back to their own GP for a referral. So a walk-in patient can be referred directly to hospital or another service.
- The provider of the GP service may well choose to offer other things on site, such as minor surgery or a smoking cessation service. However, details of this will not be available until the provider has been appointed.
- The only thing which the service is *required* to offer is the three ways of seeing a GP listed above.
- The procurement of the service will be funded with DoH money through Primary Care. The contract is expected to be awarded in December.
- Additional funding has also been provided by DoH for the physical provision of the building. This has been combined with existing capital planning money to fund the refurbishment of Burmantofts Health Centre (as some of this work would have gone ahead without the GP led service).
- Members asked why the Burmantofts site had been chosen, given the obvious constraints of space at the site. It was explained that the site had been chosen partly due to the time constraints – there is not enough time to build a completely new facility. However, the surrounding area is also a ‘hotspot’ for additional health needs with many residents using A&E as their first port of call. Therefore it makes sense to locate the service in this part of the city.
- The issue of transport was also raised, with members concerned in particular about the lack of parking at the site. It was explained that capital planning restrictions would limit the amount of parking available at any facility. It is recognised that parking may be an issue, but it is hoped that many patients will live locally.
- There is a requirement from the DoH to get the service up and running by early 2009, but it is recognised that there may be a need to rethink how and where it is delivered in future.
- Members questioned whether the walk-in aspect of the service will function with only two GPs. This is something which will be tackled as part of the procurement process. All bidders are aware of the facilities at Burmantofts, and of what they would be expected to deliver. It is up to them to find innovative ways of doing this.

APPENDIX 3

- Members asked whether the current provider of the Lincoln Green surgery (in the same building) will bid for the contract. It is not possible to reveal this at present, but clearly such an arrangement would generate economies of scale.
- Any other services provided alongside the GP service, such as Chiropody, will not be subject to the same opening hours and 'walk-in' requirements. However, the GPs will be able to refer patients directly to these services.
- In terms of completing the building work, the builders are aware that the work will need to be completed for when the provider starts. The provider is expected to be appointed in December, and there is an anticipated 6 week lead-in time until the service will start to operate.