

## HOSC/23/11

Committee Health Overview and Scrutiny

Date 6 July 2011

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At the last meeting, as part of the consideration of the Task and Finish Group report on Health Inequalities, the Committee agreed to seek further information on health services in Witham. Information received from NHS Mid Essex is reproduced below.

### **Update on Service Provision in Witham**

The majority of practices in Witham are offering enhanced services to enable to treat patients at their GP practices and prevent referral into hospital. These include such services as minor injuries, shared care, minor surgery and monitoring of INR levels. In addition the Fern House Surgery operates a phlebotomy service for all patients of Witham.

Since the completion of the newly built surgery at Douglas Grove last year there has been an opportunity to introduce new services to the locality. These services outlined below are for the provision of all registered patients in Witham.

### **Oncology**

The new oncology service started in Witham on Monday 4th April 2011.

- A Consultant led clinic by Dr Professor Davidson is held monthly on the first Monday afternoon each month. This service offers a medically appropriate cohort of patients registered in Witham to attend a local practice rather than travel to MEHT for their follow-up appointments.
- The PCT with the support of MEHT arranged for PAS to be installed directly into Douglas Grove in order for oncology patient data to be updated immediately following the consultation. This additional IT system will enable other MEHT clinics to be run from this practice.

### **Manuals therapies Clinic**

The practice is able to offer a twice weekly chiropractor service for Witham patients presenting with non specific low back/shoulder pain. The service is was set up as a pilot to provide quick effective treatment for Witham patients that would otherwise be

referred to secondary care, the success and popularity of the pilot has extended the service for another 6 months and the providers have voluntarily extended one of the sessions to cover the early evenings to support commuters.

### **Ultrasound Service**

This weekly scanning service has been offered from Douglas Grove Surgery for over a year, Witham patients are seen quickly and reports are returned to their own GP within 48 hours, the sonographers are able to triage the referrals quickly and if regarded as urgent will accommodate the patient almost immediately. Patients would otherwise have to travel to Braintree or Chelmsford.

### **Diabetes**

There is currently discussion from a co-hort of Witham, & Braintree GPs to set up a new diabetic patient pathway, with at least part of the new service running from a Witham Surgery, probably Douglas Grove

### **Broomfield Hospital**

The four PCTs in Essex and Essex County Council are in the process of procuring a new integrated transport service for people meeting medical or social eligibility criteria who need to attend hospital or council services. The aim of the procurement is both to improve efficiency and duplication while at the same time making the service more responsive, flexible and equitable. We are currently in dialogue with potential providers and are establishing a panel of patients to engage in the procurement process.

In response to the feedback from people concerned about the loss of the phlebotomy service at St John's the PCT has commissioned MEHT to provide a new phlebotomy service in South Chelmsford to replace the St John's service. This means that people who would have accessed St John's do not have to travel to Broomfield for phlebotomy as previously proposed.

### **Community Bed provision in Maldon**

The PCT is continuing to work on the reprovision of St Peter's, including assessing the requirement for beds, and what the options might be for future access for people from both the Chelmsford and Maldon area. This includes specialist beds for rehabilitation of stroke patients and development of an early supported discharge team. Officers of the PCT met with district councillors and other stakeholders in Maldon last week (w/c 13<sup>th</sup> June) to listen to their views and update them on progress with reprovision