

Specialised Urology Cancer Service in Essex

Project Update March 2016

Public information Events

Public information events were arranged following advice from the Joint HOSC and were designed to inform members of the public about the reason for the changes, the proposed changes and the process we were required to follow.

An information leaflet outlining the reason for these changes was circulated widely before the events took place, see appendix 1.

Whilst these were information events only, we made it very clear that further public engagement events would be held later in the year once we moved further into the process and had options about where the centre may be sited.

The events were drop in events, there was no need to book. These were held on

- **Monday 25th January** 10am-1pm Southend on Sea Library
- **Monday 25th January** 2pm-5pm Chelmsford Library
- **Monday 8th February** 10am-1pm Colchester Library
- **Monday 22nd February** 11am-1pm Laindon Library
- **Monday 22nd February** 2pm-4pm Brentwood Library

The events in Southend and Colchester were the busiest with 17 people attending the event in Southend and 21 people attending the event in Colchester.

Patient Experience Survey

NHS England have also engaged with individual patients who have experienced the service first hand. 24 patients were either visited or spoken to on the telephone. This survey has helped us to understand the patient's own experience of these specialised services and what aspects of the service they valued most.

Update on Expressions of Interest

At the beginning of December 2015 all of the acute hospital trusts in Essex were invited to submit a bid to provide the specialised urology cancer surgical centre. The date for receipt these bids was the 12th February 2016.

Two of the Essex hospital trusts have submitted bids to host this centre and provide the service for specialised urological cancer surgery in the county these are:

- Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust
- Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Next Steps

Over the next month, any queries with the submissions will be clarified before they are submitted to an expert external evaluation panel, made up of clinicians, patient representatives and commissioners from outside of the county.

We are in the process of recruiting the remaining members of this panel and hope to have confirmed the members in the next two weeks.

The role of the panel will be to assess the submissions and score them on a range of criteria. These criteria have been widely agreed and are contained in the Provider Evaluation Criteria, see appendix 2. This document was sent to the Hospital Trusts when invitations for the submissions took place. The assessment process will consider each of the submissions and look at aspects of the proposed service including; clinical service, quality, travel, access and the patient experience and the evidence of commitment to support a whole team approach across the surgical centre and local hospitals.

The panel will meet in late April and will visit the two hospital trusts to meet with the clinical teams as part of their assessment. The remit of the panel will be to make an expert assessment of the submissions and advise NHS England if the submissions meet the criteria to provide the service or not. The panel are expected to make a recommendation to NHS England as to whether both submissions meet the criteria, only one of the submissions meet the criteria or neither of the submissions meet the criteria.

We anticipate that this process will be complete by the middle of May 2016. Once we have recommendations for the future service options we plan to meet once again with the Joint HOSC for advice on our next steps. A revised timetable of the project milestones can be found in appendix 3.

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