

Aberdeen City Community Health Partnership

Aberdeen Community Health and Care Village Project Urban Community Hospital

VILLAGE NEWS

Issue 1
March 2008

What is the aim of the Project?

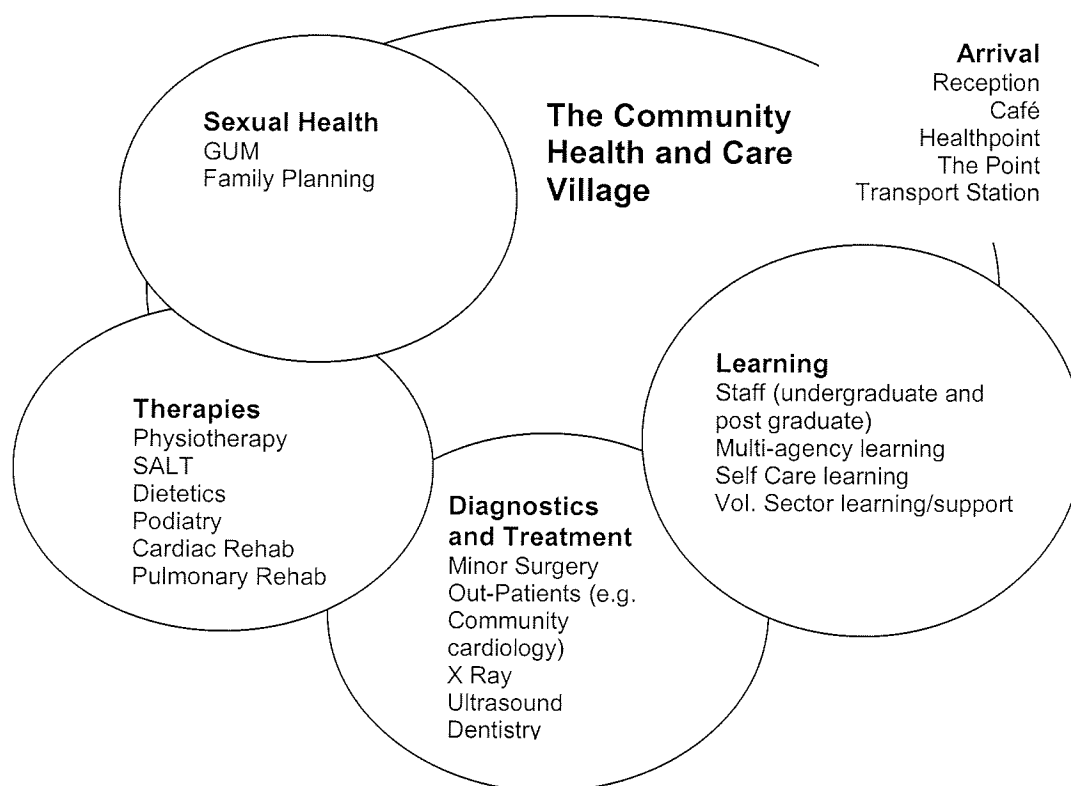
To create the hub from which the city diagnostic and treatment services will be delivered enhancing and progressing plans where appropriate to shift the balance of care away from the acute hospital setting to community based settings. Also to create fit for purpose facilities close to the city centre for the delivery of specific services provided currently from Woolmanhill Hospital, Denburn Health Centre and other buildings including the Westburn Centre and Square 13, which are subject to disposal in the next few years.

Why do we need to create the Village?

Some services will move to the Village because they are in healthcare buildings no longer appropriate for modern health care. These buildings will be closed and replaced by new facilities in the Village or on the Foresterhill site.

They include:

- Woolmanhill Hospital
- Denburn Health Centre
- Square 13, South Silver Street
- Westburn Centre, Foresterhill



Woolmanhill Hospital has been scheduled to close for some years now. The acute medical and surgical clinics are to move to existing and new facilities on the Foresterhill site. A range of services, for example, physiotherapy, x-ray and genitourinary medicine, will move to the Village. Once all services have been moved, Woolmanhill will close. As part of the option appraisal exercise the project group considered refurbishment of Woolmanhill. It was excluded because it didn't fulfil the agreed success criteria.

As people are aware Denburn Health Centre (DHC) is to close and services will be moved. Plans are underway to move the three medical practices to new premises elsewhere in the city centre. The other services in DHC, for example, podiatry, speech therapy and dentistry, will move to the Village.

Other health buildings in the city due to be decommissioned include family planning at Square 13 and physiotherapy and cardiac rehabilitation services at the Westburn Centre. These services will also move to the Village.

The Village will also provide a range of diagnostic and treatment services to facilitate shifts in the balance of care away from specialist acute hospitals, closer to local communities complimenting local services provided in General Practices and Clinics throughout the city.

What services will be provided in the Village?

The Village will provide a wide range of diagnostic and treatment services for the people of Aberdeen and some services for the people of Grampian. These include:

Minor Surgery

A range of minor surgical and endoscopic procedures that don't require a general anaesthetic will be carried out by general practitioners, consultants, podiatrists, nurses, etc. in the Village and a number of general practices in the city.

X-Ray

A plain film x-ray and ultrasound service for general practice in the city and possibly surrounding communities.

The aim is to direct all general practice x ray and ultrasound requests to the Health Village and to Aberdeen Community Hospital (ACH) at Woodend in future avoiding referral to the Foresterhill site unless appropriate.

Therapy Services

A wide range of physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, dietetic and podiatry assessment and treatment services will be delivered in a 'hub and spoke model' with a range of services also being delivered in general practices and health clinics throughout the city.

The services provided in the Village will focus on meeting the needs of patients who require access to a special environment, equipment or skills not able to be provided in multiple locations.

The therapy services will also provide for patients who live in and around the city centre, and sometimes people from locations not currently well served by a local service.

Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services, in co-operation with specialist services, primary care and the voluntary sector, will be provided from the Village as part of a 'hub and spoke' model. The well established cardiac service will move from Westburn

Centre, one of the buildings to be decommissioned.

Pulmonary rehabilitation services are to be developed to try and help patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to experience more stable disease, reducing the need for hospital admission.

Out-Patient Consulting

A range of out-patient consulting opportunities will be provided that allow patients to be managed in the community in co-operation with general practice and secondary care. A good example is community cardiology which will include the following investigations: ECG, echocardiogram, exercise testing etc.

The out-patient facilities will seek to accommodate a range of developing services not yet fully scoped, for example, long term condition management programmes, nurse practitioner 'drop in' clinics. Possibly services such as out-patient chemotherapy, intermediate care alcohol services, community mental health services provided, in co-operation with specialist services, general practice and the wider primary and social care team.

Dental Services

The main 'hub' for community and salaried dental services will relocate to the Dental Institute on the Foresterhill site. The dental suite at the Village will be one of an increasing number of local suites serving the city.

Sexual Health Services

A full range of sexual health services for people from throughout Grampian will be provided by an integrated team in co-operation with general practice and the voluntary sector.

The current genitourinary service at Woolmanhill Hospital and the family

planning service at Square 13, are integrating their services and will become the Sexual Health Service, the final piece of the jigsaw being their physical collocation in the new Health Village. This will allow the team to develop best working practices and avoid duplication of services.

Discussions are underway with Grampian Police regarding the possible collocation of the Grampian Police, Sexual Assault Examination Unit with the Sexual Health Suite and the possible future creation of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre. Evidence from elsewhere in the UK would suggest that there is benefit for patients resulting from collocating police sexual assault examination units and NHS sexual health services.

Learning

The learning suite will provide opportunities for staff learning and training.

Importantly, it will also seek to provide opportunities to support and train patients and carers, enabling people, often with long term conditions, to live independently, by providing patients and their carers with the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to self care within their capabilities.

How big will it be and how much will it cost?

The Village will be approx. 7,000 sq. metres and is currently estimated to cost in the region of £37 million.

Where will the Village be located?

A recent comprehensive option appraisal exercise resulted in agreement that the preferred location for the Village is on Frederick Street close to the city centre. This land is owned by Aberdeen City Council (ACC) and has recently been the

subject of a consultation exercise to agree its future use. NHSG have started discussions with ACC regarding the possible procurement/lease of this land.

During 2007, 150 patient interviews and a survey of the people of Aberdeen revealed that an accessible city centre location with good car parking was very important to patients. The city centre location was important as a considerable number of patients will come to the Village by bus and good bus access is therefore very important along with good car parking facilities. Patients said they were happy to get one bus but preferred a location that would minimise the need for a second bus.

If it is not possible to develop the Village on Frederick Street, it is likely to be built on NHS owned land on Berryden Road.

Who is involved in planning for the Village?

The Community Health and Care Village Project has a project board which meets monthly and is chaired by Heather Kelman, CHP General Manager. There are two public representatives on the project board.

There is also a project reference group chaired by Jackie Bremner, Service Planning Lead. This group includes representatives from the services to be based in the Village.

The consultants Currie and Brown were appointed during 2007 to assist the Project Board with development of an Outline Business Case.

What stage is the project at?

The outline business case (OBC) is now developed and is to be considered by the NHS Grampian Board in June

2008. Once the OBC has been agreed by the NHS Board it can be submitted to the Scottish Government for consideration and approval. Then work to prepare a detailed design and a full business case can commence with the aim of seeking approval hopefully by the end of 2008.

In parallel work is ongoing to discuss and agree the site to be developed.

When will the Village be commissioned and in use?

Based on the work done to date the Village is likely to be opened in 2012.

How will I find out about what is being planned and obtain an update on progress?

This newsletter, and future issues, will be one method used to keep staff, patients and other stakeholders up-to-date with the project as it progresses.

Additionally awareness sessions for staff, staff committees, public and community groups will be held at key points during the project. A second series of staff awareness sessions is being arranged for May 2008.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this newsletter please direct them to Jackie Bremner, Service Planning Lead (Project Manager) jackie.bremner@nhs.net or phone 01224 558548.

This newsletter is available in large font on request - please call Jill on 01224 558545.