

London Borough of Barnet Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting on Thursday 12th July 2018

Update on Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group's project to improve the range of services and utilisation at Finchley Memorial Hospital

1. Introduction

At the December 2017 meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) reported on progress with its plans to improve the use and occupation of Finchley Memorial Hospital (FMH). A further informal update was provided to the Committee Chairman in May 2018. This update has been prepared to bring further information to the new Committee with particular focus on Breast Screening, the new CT scanner and plans for the new GP Practice.

2. New Breast Screening Unit and CT Scanner

Capital works for the new Breast Screening suite and the new CT scanner suite started on 4th June and are well underway. Two clinical rooms are being converted into a mammography area, two changing rooms and a small admin area. A further two clinical rooms are being converted into a CT scanner suite and a control room.

The timescale for the building works are for the Breast Screening suite to be completed by 9th July and the CT scanner suite to be handed over by 23rd July.

The medical equipment will then be installed following completion of the building works and the equipment will be tested and calibrated.

The North London Breast Screening Service (part of the Royal Free) are aiming for Breast Screening services to go live in early August. Currently University College Hospital, who will run the CT scanner, does not have a date for the service to go live given the extent of the capital works and commissioning of new equipment as well as the need to co-ordinate timings with the associated research programme. However, the aim is for this service to be operational later this year.

3. General Practice

The CCG is currently inviting expressions of interest from local GPs to move into Finchley and set up in practice there. The CCG requires applying practices to offer a full range of GP primary care services including taking new patient registrations.

The CCG is inviting practices to propose primary care models involving a higher level of collaboration between practices and with community health services, taking full advantage of the other clinical and diagnostic services based at Finchley in line with the CCG's Care Closer to Home agenda and Barnet's Primary Care Strategy. This provides an exciting opportunity to also potentially align primary care with mental health and social care services.

The CCG invited submissions by the end of June. These will be reviewed and a decision to proceed will be made during July.

If an acceptable proposal is identified the CCG will work with the GPs to manage the next steps. This may include public consultation if a practice is moving location. Although the CCG cannot be precise about timescales from this point onwards, as they are dependent on the detail of the successful proposal, the aim is to have new services operating from the Finchley site by the end of 2018. Any additional update on timescales will be supplied by verbal update at the Committee's July meeting.

4. Summary

Over the last three plus years the CCG has been running a major project to improve the utilisation of Finchley Memorial Hospital.

We are now approaching the end of this work and there have been a series of major improvements in the utilisation of this excellent facility leading to a wider range of services and many more patients using the facility.

A summary of the project's outcomes include:

- The opening of Adams Ward – an additional 17 new beds to support better discharge of patients from Barnet General and the Royal Free
- Securing major capital funding from Community Health Partnerships to adapt Adams Ward to allow a wider range of patients to be nursed safely
- Securing major capital funding from Community Health Partnerships to create a permanent Breast Screening suite that will operate all year round and replace the visiting mobile unit
- The installation of a CT scanner run by University College Hospital that will offer a higher level of diagnostic services to Barnet residents to tackle earlier diagnosis of lung cancer
- Plans underway to bring GP Primary Care services into Finchley for the first time since the building opened
- Almost 50% increase in places for patients in the Chemotherapy & Infusion suite
- Improved utilisation of outpatient services
- New Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) service
- A new automated room booking service to aid sessional use of rooms at Finchley

Currently there are almost 40 different clinical services provided from Finchley and over 200,000 people a year are treated in the facility (excluding the inpatient beds, which equate to over 18,000 inpatient bed days per annum).

Depending on the size of the GP practice chosen to move into Finchley this number could easily increase to circa 300,000 patients per annum when GP primary care, breast screening and CT scanner patients are included.

In three years Barnet CCG has transformed Finchley Memorial Hospital from one of the most under-utilised primary care and community health care facilities in London into one of the most comprehensive, most intensively utilised non-acute hospital sites in London.

May 2018