

Consultation Paper

Relocation of Littlehampton Dental Clinic

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Set out the reasons and options for the planned relocation of the Special Care Dental Service at Littlehampton Health Centre.
- Seek views and comments from patients, carers, staff and other key stakeholders on the options and issues raised within this paper.

Reasons for change

The opportunity to review the current arrangements for the Special Care Dental Service has arisen because:

- The existing location is not fit for purpose due to the layout of the accommodation and the space available.
- The premises do not fully comply with Health & Safety Regulations, Care Quality Commission (CQC) and NHS England Standards.
- The service provides a dental clinic one day a week which can be inflexible for patients and restricts choice.
- There have been difficulties in providing a therapy service for over a year due to long-term sickness and difficulties in finding a suitable solution.
- This is currently a single surgery clinic and NHS best practice is to discourage single surgery clinics.
- The future sustainability of the service is at risk due to potential competition from other providers who may be commissioned, and due to current high running costs.

Options

We are looking at different options on where the service can be located in the future. This also provides us with the opportunity to identify where improvements can be made to the service. We welcome your views and suggestions, particularly in relation to the potential options detailed below:

- Combine clinics with those already being provided from surgeries in Worthing Central Clinic and Jubilee Dental Centre, Chichester which meet best practice.
- Choice to be cared for at either Chichester or Worthing Clinics which provides more choice and flexibility – clinics are available Monday to Friday 9am through till 4pm. Patients will have access to a wider multidisciplinary team of professionals including therapists (both locations) and a paediatric specialist (at Worthing). These clinics can best meet wider patient need.
- Remain where we are, mitigating the risks.

When considering alternative options, we will take into account the following:

- The impact on patients and carers.
- The impact on staff.
- How we can improve the service and patient experience.
- Reduce the level of risk.
- Any potential cost savings.
- Transport options between the alternative clinics and availability (transport options attached).

At this stage, we anticipate that the service provision will be similar to the current provision; it is the suitability of the current location which is in question and why the relocation is necessary.

The Littlehampton clinic has a current caseload of 92 dental patients who may be affected. None of these require:

- Domiciliary appointments (in their own homes or at a day centre).
- Patient transport to enable them to attend appointments.

If you wish to respond to this consultation paper:

Please provide your comments/views and reasons for any options that you prefer, as well as any suggestions on improving the Special Care Dental Service. Please forward your response to:

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By: 16th January 2019

What happens after the consultation?

Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust provides the Special Care Dental Service. It will take into account the comments/views and suggestions made with patients and stakeholders. The agreed option will be communicated to patients, carers and other key stakeholders who may be affected/have been consulted about any possible change. In addition, staff affected by any change will be formally consulted with.

It is anticipated that any relocation of the Dental Service will take place early in 2019.