

Breast Care Services Review

Stakeholder Newsletter

Newsletter 5

January 2010

Welcome

Welcome to our fifth edition of the Breast Care Services Review Stakeholder Newsletter.

On the 14th of December 2009, the Project Board came together for the last time. Deborah Evans, the Project Board Chair, closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their constructive involvement and echoing the thoughts of all involved that the work we've done will result in better breast care services for patients.

Read on for further details on the meeting's outcomes.

Spokes engagement

An engagement exercise was established to gather views on the location of the breast care spokes and the location of the sites that the mobile screening unit should visit in the new model.

We are suggesting the spokes are at South Bristol Community Hospital, Central Health Clinic, Southmead Hospital and Weston General Hospital, where there will be screening provided using a static machine and nurse led follow up clinics for people who have completed their treatment.

Currently the mobile screening unit visits Yate, Thornbury, Clevedon and Portishead. We would like to make better use of the static machines so we wanted to find out from people in Portishead and Clevedon how they would feel about accessing the screening service at Weston General Hospital, where there is a static machine.

We held three public meetings in Weston, Central Health Clinic and Cossham, and visited one existing group in South Bristol and 5 groups in Portishead and Clevedon.



In total, we received feedback from 142 people, 132 members of the public and 10 members of staff.

Everyone was very positive about having all the services together at a Bristol hub with closer links to the satellite hub in Weston. People were happy with the location of the four spokes. However, there was a great deal of concern about the mobile van not providing a service in Portishead and Clevedon. There was consensus that this would put people off attending, which could in turn result in cancers being undetected. A number of people also raised the issue of the impact on the environment, as women from the north of North Somerset would all need to travel to Weston super Mare. There was concern that by removing this local service we would be giving the message that to be 'screened for breast cancer is not all that important'.

As a result the Project Board agreed that at least in the first phase of implementation, the mobile van should continue to visit Clevedon and Portishead.

We have also recommended that a full staff engagement exercise be conducted during the implementation phase, as well as further work to ensure the facilities at Weston General Hospital can be enhanced to allow the Avon Breast Screening to provide a screening service at the hospital rather than from a mobile van. A full report of the feedback from the exercise is available on the website (www.avon.nhs.uk/bhsp).



Due diligence process

We reported previously that the new Southmead Hospital was recommended as preferred location for the Bristol hub and would be undergoing a process of due diligence to confirm that it would be able to accommodate the service and deliver the agreed clinical model. The due diligence process also looked at the proposed location of the spokes to confirm that these would provide good access to screening and be able to meet the demands of screening more women when the age bracket of women being invited for mammograms increases.

The criteria tested as part of the due diligence process were:

- Opportunity for integrated professional working
- Facilitation of seamless and effective patient pathway through the service
- Clinicians and patients will be involved in the design of new facilities
- Flexibility for the future
- Clinical adjacencies enhance safety, quality and patient experience
- Quality of physical environment
- Effective end to end clinical pathway
- Access for service users
- Timeline for solution
- Research and development

The Project Team worked very closely with Trust General Managers to seek assurance on how the new Southmead Hospital solution will meet the above criteria for the integrated Bristol hub and presented evidence to the Project Board on the 14th of December. In particular, the following was highlighted:

- The examination room and procedure room space at the new Southmead Hospital was benchmarked against north London and shown to be greater.
- The total space for the Bristol hub at the new Southmead Hospital will be greater than the space utilised at the Nottingham Breast Institute.
- Space has been designed for theatres, wards, volunteers room, outpatient clinic rooms, waiting rooms, diagnostic facilities, office space, education and research, reception, storage and kitchen/rest/changing/toilet facilities.
- North Bristol NHS Trusts commitment to fully involve service users and clinicians in the design of facilities for the breast care services Bristol hub.

The Project Board was satisfied with the due diligence process carried out and that the evidence presented demonstrated the new Southmead Hospital could meet the above criteria.

Future steps

Assessment by an external panel of experts

The purpose of the external panel is to review the final proposals from the Review and in doing so act as a 'critical friend'. This will provide the Project Board and scrutiny committees with reassurance that the proposals are clinically sound and in line with best practice. Experts on the panel have been chosen to represent the appropriate clinical disciplines, for their experience of undertaking a similar reconfiguration of breast care services and to ensure the view of a smaller unit is represented for the benefit of the satellite hub at Weston General Hospital.

Panel members were sent proposals for comment on the 16th of December and we will be publishing a report based on the panel's feedback on the 20th of January 2010.

The space at the new Southmead Hospital for the Bristol hub

David Powell, Director of Projects at North Bristol NHS Trust, will be presenting the plans for the space at the new Southmead Hospital in the Seminar Room at the **Central Health Clinic from 2.30pm on Wednesday 27th January 2010**. Any staff interested in attending this presentation are welcome to do so.

An integrated clinical team

The clinical group, comprising of clinicians across both Trusts, met on the 11th of November. At this meeting, clinicians came together in their disciplines (i.e., oncology, radiology, surgeons, plastic surgeons, pathology) to start designing the floor plans for their space in the Bristol hub. The recommendations from the Equality Impact Assessment were shared with the clinicians so that they could consider how to implement these.

Involvement of staff

During the implementation phase there will need to be comprehensive involvement of staff. This will be in designing the new space at Southmead Hospital and about any human resource issues relating to the new services. It will be very important that staff feel involved in how services will be run and that they have a sense of ownership.

Scrutiny committees

At its meeting on the 14th of December, the Project Board, including representatives from the patient groups BUST and Bosom Buddies, discussed the proposed changes to breast care services and agreed that the impact on patients, carers and health inequalities would be positive and that there would be no adverse impact on the local health community. This view will be presented to the four local scrutiny committees (Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset) in February and March and their advice will be sought on whether a public consultation is necessary.

How to contact us

If you would like more information, or to get involved with the Breast Care Services Review, please contact Emma Phillips via email, emma.phillips@bristolpct.nhs.uk, or telephone 0117 984 1629.

Also look at the Bristol Health Services Plan website www.avon.nhs.uk/bhsp and go to Current service reviews and click on Breast care.

If you would like further copies of this newsletter or in another format, please contact the BHSP office at South Plaza, Marlborough Street, Bristol, BS13NX, telephone: 0117 9841629 or emma.phillips@bristolpct.nhs.uk