

Frenchay Project News

Welcome to the fourth edition of Frenchay Project News, which provides an update following a meeting of the Frenchay Project Board on 15 December, 2008.

The Frenchay Project will develop, evaluate and recommend a range of options for future community healthcare services to be commissioned at Frenchay to best meet the health needs of the local population.

The Project will do this by:

- Completing a Health Needs Assessment to find out and describe the health needs of the community.
- Reviewing rehabilitation services by scoping out current services, understanding how they fit together and understanding best practice to ensure that any services the project proposes offer the most appropriate solution.
- Mapping services to clarify which services are, or are already planned to be, provided in the area.

Updates on each of these areas of work were provided at the Project Board meeting in December.

Review of Rehabilitation Services

The review of rehabilitation services is being led by the Rehabilitation Working Group. Their work covers non-specialist community rehabilitation services for the whole of South Gloucestershire. The vision is that *“patients should be treated at home unless they require an intervention, assessment or facility only available in a hospital setting”*. The

group aims to propose a model for community rehabilitation services that meets patients' and carers' needs, supporting patients' recovery and improving their independence while making the best possible use of resources.

The Rehabilitation Working Group has developed an initial draft model for community rehabilitation services, which is based upon best practice. The draft model shows a comprehensive multi-disciplinary community rehabilitation service delivered in patients' homes, nursing or residential homes or community hospital settings.

Key features of this initial service model are:

- Care planning and case Management.
- Its multi-disciplinary nature, reflecting the interconnected range of support required.
- A single point of access and communication to help users navigate and understand the system.
- Regular and ongoing communication between service providers and with patients and carers.
- Community beds.
- Support from carers.
- Mental health and social care included within the service.
- Patients given a clear, supported discharge plan.

The Rehabilitation Working Group is presently led by clinicians, although it includes representatives of some other key stakeholders. The Group is however, very aware that it must further

involve people who use rehabilitation services, as well as other stakeholders, to ensure services meet their needs. It is therefore finalising its approach to engaging with patients, carers and other stakeholders.

This will include a questionnaire that will ask patients and carers for feedback on their experience of current services and their suggestions for future development. Later, the group will set up a wider engagement process to discuss and test ideas for the rehabilitation model of care with patients and carers.

An Update on Health Needs

An assessment of the health needs of the population likely to use services based at Frenchay is an essential starting point for planning services.

The Frenchay Locality Health Needs Assessment takes into account the age ranges, mortality, birth rates, rates of serious illness, relative wealth or deprivation and faiths of those likely to use services based at Frenchay. It also takes into account other factors like expected increase in housing, future growth in population and the influx of students in the area.

This work is now almost complete and Dr Chris Payne, Director of Public Health for NHS South Gloucestershire, presented a draft report to the Frenchay Project Board. The final report will be brought to the next meeting of the Project Board in January for sign off. This will then be published on the website.

Work continues to “map” services

Beatrix Maynard has led the mapping of services to clarify which services are, or are already planned to be, provided in the area. This will provide knowledge of the distribution of services in the Frenchay area and will inform the development of options and recommendations for future services based at Frenchay.

Beatrix presented a draft report to the Project Board. Developed with the help of stakeholders and the Bristol Health Services Plan, the content of the report includes community hospitals, community care, children’s services, services for people with learning disabilities, services for people with mental health needs, local authority services and third party services currently at Frenchay.

Discussion of draft evaluation criteria

The possible options for services to be provided from Frenchay will be evaluated using consistent criteria.

At its meeting in December, the Frenchay Project Board discussed these criteria, which have been developed by a group comprising of representatives from LINKs, The Care Forum, South Gloucestershire Council and NHS South Gloucestershire.

In order to refine the proposals, it was decided that grouping services in a way that made sense to patients and commissioners would be a useful starting point. The services in these groups could then be assessed against existing strategies to determine a short list of services for final evaluation. A further paper will be brought to the Project Board at its meeting in January.

Your feedback is important

You can share your comments or concerns on The Frenchay Project with us and we will ensure that they are recorded and reported to the Project Board. To do this, or be included on our mailing list for regular updates, please contact Lois Green, NHS South Gloucestershire, on **0117 330 2470** or **frenchay.project@nhs.net** Information about the Frenchay Project can be found on our website **www.sglos-pct.nhs.uk**