

**Briefing note to
Sefton Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Health & Social Care**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON ALDER HEY CHILDREN'S HEALTH PARK

30th June 2009

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to share with the Committee the formal public consultation and engagement process around the developments of Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave permission for the project to proceed to consultation at their meeting on 28th May 2009.

The consultation period is from 1st June – 27th July 2009 and Liverpool Primary Care Trust is leading the process. This report outlines the significant work that will be continued across the health and social care community to engage the public, clinicians, council members and other stakeholders in these developments.

The detail of the proposals for consultation is contained within the full consultation and summary documents which are attached. A comprehensive Communications & Engagement Strategy has also been produced.

BACKGROUND

Alder Hey was founded in 1914. Today, many of the buildings on the hospital site are over 75 years old and among the oldest hospital premises in the North West. The current buildings do not provide a child-friendly environment; critically:

- The wards are cramped and are too narrow to be converted into single bedrooms as recommended by government policy.
- It is difficult to separate children of different sexes or ages.
- There is a general lack of privacy for patients and their families.
- There is little space for playing or other recreational activities.
- There is little soundproofing, which means wards can be very noisy, disturbing patients' sleep and increasing anxiety.
- Significant backlog maintenance tasks to meet health and safety standards, such as replacing mains electrical and heating services, would cost several million pounds.
- The Trust cannot bring essentially related departments, such as intensive care and accident and emergency, closer together.
- The building will never fully meet disabled-access standards.
- The site is overcrowded, with no room to expand because it is landlocked.
- The site has reached its maximum limit for parking and severe traffic congestion cannot be eased and, in fact, will worsen over time.

The consultation proposals will consequently focus on 2 options which are detailed in the consultation document, but essentially focus on a rebuild or the redevelopment of the current hospital as Stage 1 of the proposals. This would entail:

1. A newly designed and built hospital in Springfield Park

2. Redevelopment on the existing Alder Hey site, i.e. 'knock and build' via multiple phases.

A second phase, to be completed by the end of 2018, will focus on facilities for outpatients, the provision of hospital gardens and Education and Research. Should a major service change emerge during Stage 2, the Trust will conduct further consultation at that time.

CONSULTATION METHODS

During the past four years, there has been a robust programme of pre-consultation work leading to this point. The methods being used to publicise the consultation and gain views include:

- issue of the full consultation document to statutory consultees with covering letter and to others on request;
- activity in outpatient clinics, to ascertain views of patients and their families;
- issue of the summary consultation document to other community groups with covering letter and general distribution to GP practices, libraries, Trust premises, etc;
- consultation video;
- a series of open public meetings:
 - 1st July at 6 pm Liverpool Holiday Inn
 - 8th July at 12 noon at Formby Guild Hall
 - 10th July at 12 noon at Huyton Suite
- meetings/presentations at the request of e.g. community groups (the covering letter will offer these);
- press releases/features in local media;
- information via the Trust and PCT websites.

Responses will be taken in the form of:

- questionnaires at public or other meetings and roadshows;
- returned consultation forms;
- e-consult online/state consultation tool via the Trust and PCT websites

Liverpool PCT is also procuring the services of an independent market research company who will work pro-actively to ascertain the views of a cross section of the public across a range of geographical locations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested to:

- Note and support the consultation methods proposed in this report
- Support the proposal to conduct further consultation during Stage 2 of the process should a major service change emerge
- Agree on the frequency of update reports to this committee

Louise Shepherd
Chief Executive