

Consultation - Relocation of the Sheffield GP Collaborative (GPC)

This document details why the Sheffield GP Collaborative (GPC) needs to relocate its service from its current base at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital (RHH).

1. **Background - What is the Sheffield GP Collaborative and what services does it provide?**

The Sheffield GPC is part of Sheffield Primary Care Trust (PCT). It provides GP Out of Hours services to patients of 80% in GP surgeries in Sheffield. The GPC currently operates between 6.00 pm and 8.00 am during the week and throughout the weekend.

The other 20% are covered by different arrangements, unaffected by this consultation.

A patient who calls one of the GPs who subscribes to this service will be automatically diverted to the GP Collaborative. A clinician assesses the patient, initially by telephone. During this telephone conversation the clinician agrees appropriate action with the patient to ensure they receive treatment within an appropriate time, in an appropriate location and from an appropriate clinician. Any condition that needs to be treated before the GP surgery next opens is dealt with.

The majority of calls are completed following a telephone call but where a face to face consultation is required, this is arranged. Patients are invited to the GPC and an appointment time arranged. Where the patient has difficulty in getting to the GPC, transport can be provided. Home visits are also offered where clinically required and to those patients who are housebound.

The GPC runs from a base on the site of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, leased from Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust (STHFT). This is both a clinical and administrative base.

To give you an idea of the number of out of hours calls and the actions needed from them, here is what happened last year:

During 2007 the GPC dealt with 47,000 calls:

- 52.5% of patients received telephone advice from a GP.
- 27.5% visited the GPC using their own transport
- 14.5% were visited in their own home
- 5.5% visited the GPC using GPC transport

2. Why does the GP Collaborative need to move to another location?

The Sheffield GPC is currently located within the Royal Hallamshire Hospital (RHH). However, due to additional space being required for other hospital related services, notice has now been given to the GP Collaborative to leave its present accommodation and move off the RHH site, by Spring 2009.

3. Where would the GP Collaborative relocate to?

Options for relocating the GPC were widely explored during last year with the Sheffield Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust and Sheffield PCT.

The preferred option is to relocate the GPC to the site of the Northern General Hospital, and a potential suitable base has been identified on this site.

By relocating the GPC to the NGH site there is an opportunity to work much closer with the A&E service, benefiting patients by making sure they are seen by the most appropriate health care service and clinician.

4. What will the benefits be in relocating the GP Collaborative

The benefits in relocating the GP Collaborative are:

- **Closer to A&E** – patients coming to A&E who need primary care treatment rather than hospital treatment can be redirected to more appropriate services in a purpose built centre
- **Improved clinical services** – purpose designed premises will lead to improved care and treatment
- **Integrated service** – the closeness to A&E means more appropriate referrals and treatment
- **Better access for patients** – where patients come to A&E and need primary care services
- **No change to accessing the service** – patients will still be able to come to the centre in person or be seen at home, depending on need. Transport will continue to be provided for patients who need it.
- **Possibility of extended opening hours** – a pilot scheme to test patients' needs with extended opening hours could soon get underway

A consultation process is proposed to commence 10 September 2008 and will include formal consultation with the Sheffield City Council's Scrutiny and Policy Development Board (Health and Community Care).

5. We want YOUR views

Your views on the issue of the relocation of the GPC are very important to us. It would be helpful if you could answer the following questions:

Do you think it is a good idea to relocate the GPC closer to A&E?

Do you have any concerns about the GPC relocating its services to the NGH hospital site?

Would you like to see the extension of opening hours of the GPC?
(Currently open when your GP surgery is closed – 6.00 pm to 8.00 am weekdays, and throughout the weekend)

A pilot project could look at 24 hour opening over a six-month period – do you think this would be useful?

- Send your views by email or request an electronic version of this questionnaire by contacting emma.simpson@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk
- Write to Barry Dobson at Sheffield PCT Provider Services, Westcourt, Hillsborough Barracks, Langsett Road, Sheffield, S6 2LR

6. Publishing the results of the Consultation

The results of the consultation will be made available on the following website www.sheffieldpct.nhs.uk or will be available from Barry Dobson on 01142 264600 - barry.dobson@sheffieldpct.nhs.uk

7. Consultation Leaflet

This information is also available in a Consultation leaflet, copies of which can be requested from Emma Simpson on 01142 264711 and are available in different languages and Braille and larger print, on request.

If you have any further queries or require more details on the above mentioned relocation process for the GPC please contact (sheffieldgpcollaborative@sch.nhs.uk).