

Update on Edenbridge Consultation

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A blue ribbon graphic with a white border, containing the text 'July 2017'.

July 2017

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Patient focused,
providing quality,
improving outcomes

1. **Introduction and background**

- 1.1 Health services in Edenbridge are mainly provided by GPs in Edenbridge Medical Practice and by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) in people's own homes and in the Edenbridge and District War Memorial Hospital (the Hospital). These services are commissioned for the Edenbridge population by NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG). These three organisations routinely work together and discuss how to meet the current and future needs of people in Edenbridge.
- 1.2 In 2016 it was clear that the cramped GP practice and the aging hospital were already struggling to meet the needs of a growing population and to provide modern standards of care in cost-effective settings. The hospital includes a very small inpatient unit (14 beds) which is not up to date, is not used in the main by Edenbridge patients and is expensive because of its small scale.
- 1.3 A 'listening process' was carried out between May and July 2016 to get the views of local residents, the Hospital League of Friends and KCHFT staff in a series of meetings and events. In total 307 people attended meetings and 434 responded to the engagement document and survey. There was general support for expanding GP and other services locally. There was also concern about the future of much loved hospital, a demand for more information and for the public to be involved in the planning process.
- 1.4 Following the 2016 engagement exercise, the health service commissioners and providers went on to develop various options and carry out equality impact assessments of these. The options of doing nothing or expanding/re-furbishing the current sites were ruled out for many reasons including high costs, problems relating to staffing and not meeting future needs. The options that emerged focused on the following critical factors:
 - Whether the hospital and GP surgery were to combine on a single site
 - Which site(s) to use
 - If there was to be a new build
 - If there would still be inpatient beds
 - If there were to be new services.
- 1.5 It was clear and well recognised by the public that doing nothing was not possible. In order to progress to make any changes, CCGs are required to develop consultation proposals and documents and have these agreed by NHS England. In December the CCG had outline consultation plans agreed with NHS England and consultation took place between February and April 2017.

- 1.6 The 2017 consultation was on the following options.
- a) Build on a new site without inpatient beds (**Option 1a**)
 - b) Build on a new site with inpatient beds (**Option 1b**)
 - c) Build on the existing hospital site without inpatient beds (**Option 2a**)
 - d) Build on the existing hospital site with inpatient beds (**Option 2b**).
- 1.7 After weighing up pros and cons of these four possible options, the commissioners and providers preferred option was for a new site to be developed with no inpatient beds (Option 1a).
- 1.8 A 24 page document describing the situation and rationale for change and identification of the four options was presented to local people in a public consultation running from 1 February to 26 April 2017. The outcome of the Consultation was independently assessed for the three consulting parties by the University of Kent. Their report is attached as Appendix A.

2. Current actions and next steps

- 2.1 The Medical Practice and KCHFT have reviewed the consultation and the report from the University. They will be writing to the CCG in the first week of July. The CCG Governing Body will then review the consultation, the report and the reported views of the practice and the Trust at the Governing Body meeting on the 25 July. At that meeting the Governing Body will agree on which option to proceed.
- 2.2 The CCG and KCHFT have meanwhile proceeded to advertise for a full-time Project Manager and interviews are taking place in July. On the basis of the final CCG decision, a project plan will then be developed to include discussions with local councils and with potential developers. An outline business case will also be developed and funding possibilities further explored, including possible bids for capital.