

## ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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**WARD(S):** All

### FOR INFORMATION and COMMENT

#### EAST BERKSHIRE CCGS STROKE SERVICE RECONFIGURATION PROJECT

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform and engage with the committee about proposed plans to reconfigure the way acute stroke services are delivered in East Berkshire and particularly in Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough.

##### **2. Recommendation**

The committee is requested to scrutinise and comment on the proposed service reconfiguration plans.

The proposed plans are to reconfigure stroke services in East Berkshire to deliver a modified version of the 'London Model', which ensures that all suspected stroke patients are conveyed to a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) for their care. The Thames Valley Clinical Senate has endorsed this reconfiguration in East Berkshire.

##### **3. Supporting Information**

The National Stroke Strategy, published in 2007 by the Department of Health, collated the key evidence and outlined what was needed to be achieved to create effective stroke services in England. It identified major stages in the stroke patient's pathway and established quality markers that need to be delivered for stroke patients. The strategy recognised the potential benefits for all patients if effective early treatment and fast rapid access to acute stroke specialist services were provided.

“Time is brain” and the first 72 hours care is vital to ensure the optimum clinical outcome. This needs to be underpinned by an effective whole system pathway for assessment, discharge and repatriation to local stroke services, subsequent rehabilitation and longer term support.

It has been recommended by the British Association of Stroke Physicians (BASP) and Royal College of Physicians (RCP) that all suspected acute stroke patients should be admitted directly to a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) to ensure the best possible health outcomes for stroke patients. HASUs bring experts and equipment under one roof to provide world-class treatment 24 hours a day, reducing mortality rates and long-term disability.

### **Current Provision of Stroke Care in East Berkshire**

Currently, patients who live in Ascot, Maidenhead or Bracknell are most likely to go to Frimley Park Hospital in Camberley or The Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. Both hospitals offer excellent stroke services and the decision on which hospital patients go to will be based on a number of factors, including the speed at which patients can be transported there. Both The Royal Berkshire Hospital and Frimley Park Hospital are Hyper-Acute Stroke Units (HASU), so when patients are being seen at either hospital site, this is in line with clinical recommendations.

However, stroke patients from Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough are likely to be treated at Wexham Park Hospital of the NHS Frimley Health Foundation Trust, which is not a HASU. Since Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust has acquired the Wexham Park Hospital site, there have been significant improvements to quality across many services but concerns remain about stroke services. Quality indicators are monitored by the CCG as well as nationally through the Royal College of Physicians’ SSNAP (Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme) indicators.

Following on from Wexham Park Hospital’s performance against these indicators, we have had discussions with the provider and agreed that they would not be able to provide a HASU level of service and as such, patient outcomes would not be provided at the standard we require. Treatment of stroke patients does not therefore currently follow best practice, as all stroke patients should first be admitted to a Hyper-Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) for assessment and initial treatment following a stroke.

In order to ensure that Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough patients also receive the optimal standard of care should they suffer a stroke, it is proposed that they should be treated at the nearest HASU, which for the majority of Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough patients is Wycombe hospital. For patients resident in the Windsor area who are closer to Frimley Park Hospital, which is also a HASU, they would continue to be transported there.

## **Proposed Plan**

The proposed plan is to therefore reconfigure stroke services in East Berkshire to deliver a modified version of the 'London Model', which ensures that all suspected stroke patients are conveyed to a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) for their care.

For Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough patients, the proposed plans would mean the following:

- Patients who would have previously been conveyed to Wexham Park Hospital would in future be conveyed to the nearest HASU, which for the majority of these patients is at Wycombe Hospital;
- Patients would remain at the HASU for the duration of the acute stage of their care – 7-10 days;
- Patients would then be repatriated to an in-patient stroke rehab or neuro rehab unit closer to where they live;
- Wexham Park Hospital would no longer provide an acute stroke unit. Once Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough patients have completed the acute stage of their care, they will complete in-patient rehab at a local centre.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the Thames Valley Clinical Senate undertook a Stage 1 Clinical Review of the principle of the proposed move to the London model. They found that the evidence to support the move was robust and the proposal was therefore supported.

## **How many patients will be affected?**

In 2014/15, 216 patients from the Windsor and Maidenhead CCG area were admitted to Wexham Park Hospital for stroke. In future, the assumption will be that approximately 80% of these stroke patients will be transported to Wycombe Hospital, and the remainder will be transported to the other neighbouring HASUs Frimley Park Hospital and Royal Berkshire Hospital.

## **Engagement to date**

We have discussed this project at various public forums, including Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead CCG Governing Body meeting, Community Partnership Forums and there is information on the CCG website. Engagement has been received positively to date and we will continue to present the clinical evidence and listen as much as we talk, to all groups including patients, carers and the public.

## **Benefits for Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead Patients**

We believe that there will be significant benefits for the patients of Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead, as they will receive the optimal level of care enabling the best possible health outcomes. There will also be continuity of care, as all of the acute phase of their stroke care will be delivered at one site, without the need to be transferred after the initial 72 hours.

The objectives below address in more detail the benefits we want to achieve for our patients.

## **Objectives of the Service Reconfiguration**

The objectives are to:

- Improve the outcomes of stroke patients, by reducing the levels of mortality and disability following a stroke;
- Improve patients experience and to enhance their recovery following a stroke;
- Have a service based on an accepted international and national evidence base;
- Have equity of access to the service across the region;
- Have equity of quality of care;
- Provide a fully integrated acute stroke service;
- Implement the recommendations of the National Stroke Strategy in relation to acute care;
- Ensure specifications are in line with Royal College of Physicians and NICE guidelines;
- Have 24/7 screening, consultant and other specialist support available on HASU sites;
- Have rehabilitation services that include high-quality Physiotherapy; Speech and Language Therapy; Psychological support and Occupational Therapy;

- Give all patients access to appropriate multi-disciplinary team skills and have a comprehensive health and social care plan upon discharge, with a named person to contact;
- Have all eligible patients be supported post-discharge from hospital with high-quality Early Supported Discharge (ESD) services, including psychological support and other further rehabilitation if needed;
- Have a seamless service from an acute hospital to a rehabilitation unit with the appropriate level of support at each stage.

### **Implications Arising from the Proposal**

The implications of Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough patients being treated at Wycombe Hospital is that friends and relatives may have further to travel to Wycombe Hospital to visit them whilst they receive their care, however the clinical benefits justify this, as receiving care in a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit has been proven to result in better clinic outcomes for patients.

### **Other Implications**

There are no financial implications of the proposed action.

## **4. Conclusion**

This project has been developed through the East Berkshire Stroke Steering group that includes GP representation from Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead, Slough and Bracknell and Ascot CCGs. We also have a representative from the Stroke Association and a stroke consultant from the Thames Valley Clinical Senate and Wycombe Hospital. This group recommends that the London Model be implemented in East Berkshire for the reasons outlined above.

**The evidence is very clear that patients have a better chance of surviving and recovering from a stroke if they are treated with the optimal quality of care at a specialist stroke unit as soon as possible after the stroke has taken place. The type of care and treatment received at this crucial time can affect the extent and speed of recovery of each stroke survivor.**

The next steps are for the East Berkshire CCGs to continue to carry out extensive patient and stakeholder engagement, including consulting with local patient groups and partnership boards and holding a patient engagement event, where patients will be invited to share their thoughts on the proposed service redesign.

Subject to this patient and stakeholder engagement we are aiming to implement the new model during the first half of 2016.