

Oak Park Hospital: Future Still Unclear

Details of the capacity and role of the proposed new hospital on the site of the old secondary school at Oak Park in Havant are still to be determined.

The projected hospital, which has been on the drawing board since 2002, was originally proposed by the East Hampshire Primary Care Trust (EHPCT) to be a 120 bed, Community Hospital to replace both the Havant War Memorial and the Emsworth Victoria Cottage hospitals.

In November 2004, the plans were revised and the number of beds reduced to 90. Later that year after a traumatic foreshortened consultation which many readers of The EMS will recall, Emsworth Hospital lost its beds leaving only the 23 at Havant to serve both areas.

During May 2006, the new PCT, the joint East Hampshire, Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust (EHF&GPCT) produced a new business plan for a 25 bed Oak Park Hospital under a financial arrangement known as NHS LIFT. The ERA complained to the Emsworth Hospital Steering Group that this proposal did not meet their expectations and would not be acceptable to the residents.

Negotiations for a presentation to an ERA Annual General Meeting eventually resulted in a meeting with representatives of the new PCT, which took place in January 2007. At this meeting, it was confirmed that a 'Teamwork' audit used in a financial recovery plan to close the Emsworth beds was only an incomplete draft document, which was never adopted. It was also confirmed that the auditors did not visit our hospital which is part of the audit procedure and that audit is at present an element of the present capacity plan and hence Oak Park beds.

Hampshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

Correspondence expressing concern about capacity with the new Hampshire PCT continues. These concerns were copied to the Hampshire HOSC and key councillors on the committee.

Oak Park Hospital and the capacity plan were discussed by the HOSC at its meeting on 27th November where it was reported that a number of questions remained unanswered by the PCT representatives. Specifically, the population figure of 'roughly 100 thousand', which was defined as between 100 and 200 thousand on questioning, was based on the above mentioned 'Teamwork Audit' and used to determine the required capacity. The information is inadequate because

this figure does not include the population of the southern part of East Hants, (Horndean, Rowlands Castle, etc.) which lies within the catchment area of the hospital, neither does it take account of the impending large housing development between Waterlooville and Denmead.

The planned capacity is also by no means clear. In a presentation to the Havant Community Partnership on 27th November, the PCT cited 49 beds, 25 for GP step-up/step-down patients and 24 for elderly mentally infirm (EMI). Between that meeting and the HOSC meeting, the EMI beds had been removed. What alternative provision is being made for these patients?

The PCT have been requested to report on these questions at the HOSC meeting that will take place in July 2008.

Surplus Land

The site at Oak Park is large and there will be 'surplus' land if such a small facility is built. What plans have the PCT for this land?

- Could it be sold for housing?
- Could it be used for a new health centre for Havant, to replace the existing centre adjacent to the civic offices? There have long been rumours of plans to move the civic offices and sell the very large site for development.

Meanwhile Havant Hospital remains the only GP step-up/step-down facility for Havant, Hayling and Emsworth pending a possible replacement in 2011/12.

Tony Lowes and Richard Jannaway

Sex Change?

It has been reported that the numbers of beds available at Havant War Memorial Hospital is not always sufficient for the number of potential occupants. You will recall that when Emsworth Cottage Hospital was closed, we were told that Havant War Memorial would be sufficient together with Care in the Community. On occasions the imbalance between the numbers of male and female occupants has led to people being denied a bed because they were "the wrong sex."

Chris Curry

Dedicated care for women and children

Women and children using the services at St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth find a dedicated team of staff committed to providing the best possible care, taking into account their wishes, safety and comfort.

The specialty services, Maternity, Paediatrics, Neonates, Gynaecology and Genito Urinary Medicine are currently based at St Mary's. In summer 2009, they will move to a new state-of-the-art department at the redeveloped Queen Alexandra Hospital.



Approximately 5500 babies are born each year within Portsmouth's maternity service. There is a history of strong partnership working with St Richard's Hospital and this will continue through Portsmouth's commitment to joint Obstetric Consultant appointments. Medical staff also rotate between the two hospitals and very sick babies are transferred from St Richard's to St Mary's for specialised care.

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust provides a dedicated consultant led regional transport service for sick babies who need to be transferred due to medical reasons. Maternity services are provided to care for women across a broad spectrum of needs - from those at very high risk to those requesting a water birth. A community co-ordinator is available round the clock, to provide a single point of contact for women who choose to have a home birth. At the more complex end of the spectrum there is a multidisciplinary diabetic service specifically for mothers who require specialist care.

At St Mary's Hospital there is a 24-hour a day, 7 days a week consultant led neonatal and paediatric service to provide expert emergency care for children and babies.

The Mary Rose Birth Centre is run by midwives rather than doctors. This centre is separate to, but located within, the main maternity unit at St Mary's so that specialist medical intervention is conveniently at hand if there are complications.

Mothers to be, children and their parents are welcome to visit St Mary's or any of our birth centres before admission to familiarise themselves. If you would like to visit, please contact Donna Ockenden, Head of Midwifery on 07771814761 or by email at donna.ockenden@porthosp.nhs.uk

Pat Forsyth, Communications Manager, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

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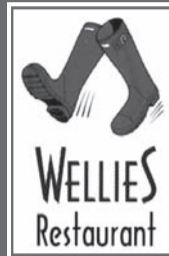
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