

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 15 November 2016
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Adult Social Services
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Windmill Hill: General Medical Services
WARD(S) Windmill Hill

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the commissioning of a general practice service at Windmill Hill from April 2017 to ensure that the Board are assured that we achieve the best from primary care services for the people of Windmill Hill.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board notes the update on the contracting of general medical services at Windmill Hill.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Before a final decision could be made on the options for Windmill Hill Medical Centre presented to the Board in June, the CCG's Primary Care Commissioning Committee (PCCC) requested that the following actions be undertaken a) Equality Impact Assessment (EIA); b) patient engagement; and c) market testing.

3.2 The EIA concluded that none of the options being considered were discriminatory, as long as a number of recommendations in relation to the dispersal of patients registered at the Widnes branch were followed.

3.3 The patient engagement exercise highlighted that over half of respondents, the majority of whom were patients at the Windmill Hill Medical Centre, had no concerns regarding the practice being run as a branch surgery. The main themes which emerged from those who expressed a concern were continuity of care, accessibility and losing the small, personal nature of the practice.

3.4 Market testing to identify whether Windmill Hill as a stand-alone contract was sustainable and viable, was undertaken in July and August. Although three organisations registered an interest on the Contracts Finder portal, none subsequently provided a formal response. All three were approached to query why they had not submitted a completed response. Only one company responded stating other opportunities in the pipeline, list size and location were the prohibitive factors. It was felt that the lack of information received could indicate that potential bidders were not interested in this service.

3.5 The PCCC's Chair subsequently approved the recommendation to procure a

branch surgery at the Windmill Hill site, carry out a mini procurement amongst existing providers in Halton and disperse the smaller element of the contract at the Widnes site. This still has the potential to be challenged but the risk was deemed low

- 3.6 **Procurement of Windmill Hill Branch Surgery:** The CCG's primary care team is working with a procurement specialist to run the procurement process. The procurement plan and timescales have been agreed, and an evaluation panel convened. A service specification and financial modelling have also been developed. A bidder session was held on 22 September 2016 attended by a number of interested practices. It is planned to commence the formal process on 17 October 2016, with a contract being awarded in early January 2017.
- 3.7 **Widnes Branch List Dispersal:** All patients registered at the Widnes branch have received a letter informing them of the decision to close the branch surgery and giving them the opportunity to raise any particular concerns or issues. Extra support or information will be provided for any patients that have a particular concern. It is planned to write to the patients again in November with information on how to register with an alternative practice. All practices in Widnes with an open list are prepared for the influx of patients from the list dispersal, and three have expressed a particular interest in registering these patients. Deductions and new patient registrations will be monitored weekly.
- 3.8 Regular meetings continue with the incumbent provider of primary care services at Windmill Hill and the practice's PPG.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The commissioning of a quality, safe and effective general medical service at Windmill Hill is critical to ensuring the continued improvement in the health and wellbeing of residents.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The report will support the priority to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people by focussing on the care provided by a Windmill Hill GP practice.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The report will help to support maintaining a healthy workforce by focussing on the care provided by a Windmill Hill GP practice.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

All issues outlined in this report focus directly on this priority

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The risks/opportunities associated with the proposed options were considered by the PCCC. The final options selected were the ones which the Committee felt offered optimum risk mitigation.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 This is in line with all equality and diversity issues in Halton.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.