

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Securing safe and sustainable services for

As you may have heard, there will be some changes to the services that are provided at the Royal Shrewsbury and Princess Royal hospitals over the next couple of years. I hope this article will explain the reasons why we need to make these changes and what this will mean for you.

I am absolutely committed to ensuring that we offer the best possible health services for the people of Powys. I understand that any change to our health services will be worrying for people. But, as I am sure you would agree, the most important thing is that we continue to provide high quality, safe hospital services for whenever you or your family need them. This is exactly why we are making these changes.

The two main changes will be:

The Princess Royal Hospital (PRH) in Telford will become the main base for women who need consultant-led maternity services, children who need to stay overnight and for inpatient head and neck services.

The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH) will become the main base for patients who are having general surgery and need to stay in hospital overnight. It will also continue to be our main centre for adult cancer services, which will be strengthened by our new £5m cancer and haematology centre development.

Despite these changes, I can reassure you that the vast majority of our patients will continue to go to the same hospital as they do now. Out of the almost 700,000 contacts we have with patients each year, over 98% will still be delivered in the same hospital as now. For those people who are affected by the changes, we will work hard to ensure that you are clear about where to go and when. Please see the table below for a full list of what will stay the same, what will change and when.

I really would welcome your comments and feedback on our latest plans for these changes (called the 'Outline Business Case') which I am pleased to say have just been approved by West Midlands Strategic Health Authority Board. The plans

and all supporting information are available on our website www.sath.nhs.uk/future

I am keen that as many people as possible are involved in shaping the future of our local hospital services. Find out later the ways in which you can get involved. I would also welcome any questions or comments you may have. Please contact me at future@sath.nhs.uk



Adam Cairns

Chief Executive
The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

The changes			
Hospital Service	What will change?	What will stay the same?	When will this happen?
Accident and Emergency Services	No change.	Our 24 hour A&E departments will continue at both hospitals.	
Outpatient services	The majority of outpatient appointments will remain unchanged. Children with cancer will be seen in the new children's unit in Telford.	Outpatient appointments, day assessments and day case procedures (where you don't have to stay overnight) will continue to be provided at both hospitals.	
Children's services	Children's services (for children who need to stay in hospital overnight) will merge to become one unit based at PRH. A new unit will be built for children's cancer services to be relocated at PRH. The Children's Assessment Unit (PAU) at RSH will be moved to be next to A&E and will be open for approximately 13 hours a day.	Children's general outpatient appointments will continue to be at both hospital sites. A Children's Assessment Unit (PAU) will continue to assess and treat children at both hospitals.	Changes are expected to be in place during 2014.
Maternity services	Any woman who needs a consultant-led delivery will give birth at the PRH. This includes women who are expecting twins, women with diabetes, women who have had previous caesareans, women whose babies are in the breech position or women whose babies are premature.	Women will still be able to receive all their ante-natal care and choose to give birth at our midwifery-led units at RSH and PRH or at one of our three community midwifery-led units at Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Oswestry. Women can also still choose to have their baby at home.	Changes are expected to be in place during 2014.
Gynaecology services	Gynaecology inpatient services will move to PRH to be alongside women and children's services.	Outpatient appointments and day cases will remain at both hospitals.	Changes are expected to be in place during 2014.
Surgery	All general surgery requiring an overnight stay, including vascular, colorectal and upper gastro-intestinal surgery, will be carried out at RSH. Inpatient breast and gynaecological surgery requiring overnight stay will be carried out at the PRH.	Most day case surgery (the majority of surgeries) will continue to be provided in the same place as now. Most surgery for life threatening trauma will continue to be carried out at the Royal Shrewsbury hospital.	Changes to inpatient vascular service expected late 2011/ early 2012. Other changes to surgery are expected to take place in 2014.
Head and Neck inpatient services	The Head and Neck service will move to PRH. As the majority of ENT procedures (800 a year) are carried out on children, this will move to be alongside children's services.	Head and neck outpatients appointments will remain at both hospitals.	Changes are expected to be in place during 2014.

Why change?

There are three main reasons why we need to make changes to our hospital services:

1. We need to ensure patients are able to have unplanned surgery in the county, whenever they need it, day and night. Due to the changes in the way doctors are trained this will become difficult to deliver in the future.
2. Our doctors believe that creating a single children's inpatient unit is the only way we can continue to provide our full range of children's inpatient services in future.
3. The maternity building at RSH which currently houses women and children's inpatient services, is deteriorating and will soon not be fit for clinical services.



our hospitals in Shrewsbury and Telford

What's been happening?

December 2010 – March 2011	14 week 'Keeping It in the County' consultation on three options for the future of local hospital services. Lots of discussion with our doctors, nurses, managers, GPs and partners. Public meetings to share ideas and listen to views of patients, carers and the public across our county.
March 2011	Strategic Health Authority Boards review the outcome of the consultation and decide to progress with our preferred option to move some services to Shrewsbury and some services to Telford.
April – September 2011	Working towards our Outline Plans (called the 'Outline Business Case').
September 2011	Outline Business Case approved by The Trust, Primary Care Trusts and West Midlands Strategic Health Authority boards.

The next steps...

October 2011 – March 2012	Work with doctors, nurses, patients, carers and the public on putting together our detailed plans into a 'Full Business Case'. This is planned to be submitted to the local and regional NHS Boards for approval in Spring 2012.
April 2012 onwards	Start work on delivering these changes to our hospitals: building; refurbishing; training staff; and moving services.
2014	New services expected to be in place.

Rumour	Fact
These changes are going to cost too much in this economic climate.	These changes are driven by the need to keep safe and sustainable services in the county, not to save money. We also said that we need to spend money to maintain the services that will remain at RSH, which we estimate will cost between £5m and £7m. These costs are affordable compared to the alternatives which were considered and to the option of doing nothing, which would in fact cost considerably more. We are working hard to make these changes happen within our budget and are hopeful that these costs may even go down.
I will have to travel further for my appointment.	The main reason that people visit hospital is to attend an outpatient appointment. Both hospitals will continue to provide outpatient appointments, day assessments and day case procedures (where you don't have to stay overnight). For those people who will be affected by the changes, we are exploring the idea of a shuttle bus which will take patients, carers and visitors between hospital sites. We are also working hard with the Ambulance Trusts to reduce the impact a longer journey may have for some patients and their families.
My child will be turned away when the Children's Assessment Unit (PAU) at RSH is closed.	Out of hours, most children access our services via their GP or by ambulance. In future, when the PAU at Shrewsbury is closed, you will be directed or taken to the children's unit at PRH (or, as now, taken straight to a specialist children's hospital such as Birmingham). But, if the PAU is closed and you do arrive at Shrewsbury then your child will be quickly seen by staff in A&E and either treated and sent home or safely transferred to Telford if they need to stay overnight.
We will never be able to better the Rainbow Unit.	We are working with parents and families of the Rainbow Unit to ensure that the new facilities in Telford will be even better for patients. We will also ensure that a personalised care plan is put in place for all children and their families who use these specialist services, so that they have information and confidence during these changes.
I need to know everything now about the changes that will happen.	This article includes the most up-to-date information for you. You are also welcome to read our Outline Business Case at www.sath.nhs.uk/future . As we get nearer to the changes happening, we will be widely publicising the details of where you need to go, if the changes affect you. It is important to stress, that despite these changes, most patients will continue to go to the same hospital as they do now.



Get Involved

We are keen to work with as many people as possible on these changes and will be visiting Welshpool, Llanidloes and Newtown Town Councils over the coming weeks. You may also be interested in coming along to our regular Patient and Public Briefings. The next sessions are:

6pm on Tuesday 8th November in Seminar Room 5, Shropshire Education and Conference Centre (SECC) at the RSH.

6pm on Thursday 10th November in the Lecture Theatre, Education Centre, Princess Royal Hospital.

If you would like to attend a session, please register your interest by calling 01743 261275 or email: future@sath.nhs.uk

We are also looking for people to take part in our focus groups. This is a great opportunity to share your views on the

changes and help shape the future of our maternity, children's, children's cancer, surgical and gynaecology services. If you are interested then please contact the Project Team on 01743 261275 or email: future@sath.nhs.uk

If you have any further questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact us at future@sath.nhs.uk

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital



NHS Trust