

## **BOARD PAPER REPORTING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION AS AT 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006 - "CARING INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY" – PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE SEABANK MEDICAL CENTRE TO A NEW PURPOSE-BUILT BUILDING ADJACENT TO ST GEORGES MEDICAL CENTRE, FIELD ROAD, WALLASEY**

### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this paper is to report the outcome of the consultation process as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 with regard to the above proposal to Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT Board.

### **Background**

2. The Board will be aware of the background to the consultation, which was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and scheduled to finish on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006. It forms part of the PCT's Strategic Services Development Plan and Premises Strategy for improving the quality of primary and community health services buildings.
3. The proposed building will complement the existing health care premises, providing modern, light and accessible premises, including elevators and staircases. It will accommodate Seabank Medical Centre and provide additional clinical and treatment rooms for St Georges Medical Centre and the PCT.
4. Seabank Medical Centre will have its own separate reception desk, waiting area and consulting/treatment rooms. The building will also provide valuable accommodation to provide additional services closer to home for existing registered patients, such as enhanced minor surgery and diabetes care, diagnostic testing and improved opportunity for patient involvement/expert patient programme.
5. Improvements to the overall site will include a doubling of car parking spaces for patients, all of which will be prioritised to the front of the building for patient convenience. A detailed Traffic Plan includes clear commitments to encouraging alternative modes of transport by employed staff at the two medical centres to further improve the traffic flow around the proposed development.

### **THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

#### **PCT Patient Forum Feedback and Advice**

6. Prior to the public consultation commencing, the Head of Wallasey Local Health Directorate met with the Chair and a representative of the Forum to seek advice about the consultation leaflet and explain the distribution rationale. As a result, minor amendments were made to the leaflet to improve readability and the feedback section. Members of Forum were invited to attend the planned public drop-in events.

**Distribution of consultation booklets**

7. Being a GP-led process, a total of 2,585 consultation leaflets were distributed across the two general practices and other stakeholders most affected by the proposal (full distribution details can be found in the communications plan attached).
8. For example, every registered household for Seabank Medical Centre was sent a leaflet via the post and a sample quantity of leaflets were distributed via the reception desk at St Georges Medical Centre. This was undertaken week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006.
9. As an additional support to the consultation process, and in agreement with the Field Road Residents Action Group, a leaflet-drop to 177 local residents' homes was also completed during this same period.

**Local Media coverage**

10. On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006 Wirral News printed public notices advising of the forthcoming drop-in events being held at New Brighton Community Centre, on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006, held between 2pm and 8pm. This provided opportunities to view the proposed development and speak to representatives from the general practices, PCT, architects and developers.

**Public drop-in events 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006**

11. In total 30 people attended the drop-in events. The major theme of discussions from visitors was concern over sufficient car parking provision and general traffic congestion issues already existing in Field Road.
12. Copies of a summary presentation of an independent traffic analysis were available at the event for discussion/explanation and for visitors to take away.

**RESULTS OF CONSULTATION**

13. In the interests of openness and transparency we have included details of all responses via consultation leaflets, email and correspondence together with copies of replies to queries where appropriate. A simple analysis of responses received is detailed below. This represents the total response received at the PCT by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006.

**CONSULTATION REPLY ANALYSIS**

570 replies received, categorised as follows as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006;

	Agree with proposal	Disagree with proposal
Patient @ Seabank MC	47	19
Patient @ St Georges MC	338	9
Local resident	13	108
PCT staff	3	-
Practice staff	15	-
Other health professional	4	-
Member of the public	9	-
Other	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>136</b>
No views expressed		5

(totals include 2 email replies to PCT email [seabank@bkwpcct.nhs.uk](mailto:seabank@bkwpcct.nhs.uk) and nil replies to [senppico\\_ord@btconnect.com](mailto:senppico_ord@btconnect.com))

A number of responses received also included comments, which can be grouped as follows;

Good/excellent idea	31
Car parking/traffic concerns	132
Logic of relocation	7
Increased services support	14
Public transport provision	8
Physical access consideration	3

The PCT has also received a petition organised by a local resident containing 131 signatures, in opposition to the proposal. Much of this is perceived as difficulties around local parking. Analysis shows that 62 names that appear on the petition also submitted a letter of disagreement.

**Conclusion**

- The PCT undertook a full public consultation exercise and as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 there is a majority agreement from those people that responded.

Including the consultation replies and petition, we can conclude that of 639 responses (570 + 131 – 62), 429 agree, 205 disagree and 5 expressed no preference (67% agree; 32% disagree, 1% no preference).

The PPI Forum has confirmed its support for the proposal.

## **Birkenhead and Wallasey Primary Care Trust**

### **Recommended Next Steps**

15. That the Board notes the majority support for the proposal.
16. That the Board takes note of public comments and all views expressed.
17. That the Board indicates whether it supports the proposed relocation so that this can be reported to the overview and Scrutiny Committee on the evening of 5 September 2006.

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006**

**Iain Stewart**  
**Head of Wallasey LHD**

**Dr Shyamal Mukherjee**  
**Chairman, Wallasey LHD**