Consultation Paper

Re-Provision of Worthing Wheelchair Service

Introduction
The purpose of this paper is to:

• Set out the reasons and options for the planned re-provision of the Worthing Wheelchair Service, Downlands Business Park, Worthing.
• Seek views and comments from patients, carers and other key stakeholders on the options and issues raised within this paper.

Reasons for change
The opportunity to review the current arrangements for the Worthing wheelchair service has arisen because:

• The lease for the building where the Service is based is due to end this year.
• The future sustainability of the service is at risk due to potential competition and high running costs.

Options
We are looking at different options on where the service will be located in future. This also provides us with the opportunity to identify if any improvements can be made to the service. We welcome your views and suggestions, particularly in relation to the potential options detailed below:

1. Move this service to other wheelchair services currently provided by Sussex Community NHS Trust in Sussex (including Bognor, Horsham and Brighton).
2. Move to a new location in the Worthing area.
3. Stay at Downlands Business Park and extend the lease (if this is available).
4. Invite and welcome other ideas from patients and stakeholders.

When considering alternative options, we will take into account the following:

• The availability of alternative accommodation within the Worthing area.
• The availability/suitability of other wheelchair services currently provided (including Bognor, Horsham and Brighton).
• The impact on patients and carers.
• The impact on staff.
• Ways we can improve the service and patient experience.
• Any costs and potential savings.

At this stage, we anticipate that the service model will be similar to what is currently provided; it is the future location of the Worthing service is in question.

To put matters into context, out of a caseload of 3,000 Worthing wheelchair patients:

• About 300 patients per year will continue to have wheelchairs prescribed and delivered to their homes without the need to be seen in the clinic.
• According to need, patients will receive home visits for assessments. There are about 350 visits to patients’ homes per year.
• Clinics will continue to be provided in the community i.e. at schools and care homes. There are about 250 patient visits to these community settings each year.
• Dependent on need, about 350 patients will continue to be assessed with the need to have their wheelchairs adjusted in clinic. On average each patient will make about 2 visits per year, each year. It is this cohort of patients that any change is likely to have an impact, especially if they have to travel further.

Over the past few weeks, we have had informal conversations and meetings with wheelchair clients and their carers, and staff. In summary, people have expressed a wish to see a wheelchair service remain within the local Worthing area. We will take this into account following any formal feedback during this consultation period, ensuring that it informs any decision on re-providing the Service.

**If you wish to respond to this consultation paper:**
We would very much appreciate to hear your comments, views, and reasons for any options that you prefer, as well as any suggestions on improving the Wheelchair Service. Please forward your response to:

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by 15th March 2013

**What happens after the consultation?**
Sussex Community NHS Trust provides the Worthing wheelchair service. It will take into account the comments, views, and suggestions made with patients and stakeholders. The agreed option will be communicated to patients, carers and other key stakeholders who may be affected/have been consulted about any possible change. In addition, staff affected by any change will be formally consulted with.

It is anticipated that any re-provision of the Worthing Wheelchair Service will take place in the first half of 2013.

**Dr Steve Novak, Clinical Director/ Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine**  
January 2013