

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 22 JANUARY 2018

REPORT OF EAST LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND CCG

PRIMARY CARE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE NORTH BLABY AREA

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide Members with an understanding of the current primary care provision in the North Blaby area covered by the East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group (ELRCCG) and outline the future plans linked to the upcoming developments.
2. Within the North Blaby area medical provision is provided by Leicester Forest House Medical Centre, Kingsway Surgery and Glenfield Surgery. Some of these practices face on-going capacity and staffing issues and any further increase in the patient population would need to be considered under the contingency plans outlined.
3. For this reason, this paper provides Members with an outline of the projected growth in the Lubbethorpe area and primary care provision to meet this potential growth.

North Blaby Locality – Background

4. The population of the Blaby district at the 2011 census was 93,915. Much of the district is part of the Leicester Urban Area, which includes parishes of Braunstone Town, Glenfield, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East and Glen Parva. There are plans to extend this urban area significantly through a large scale housing development, in the rural parish of Lubbethorpe, and expansion of the industrial area in the neighbouring parish of Enderby.
5. In 1994 a new development within Braunstone Town, Thorpe Astley, was built over the course of 15 years. This totalled over 2,000 homes during the phased construction. The development in Lubbethorpe, approved in January 2014, is located to land west of Thorpe Astley, divided by the M1.
6. As demonstrated, Blaby district has undergone rapid growth since the middle of the last century, and this will undoubtedly continue as projected especially in light of New Lubbethorpe in development since around 2015 to the west of the City of Leicester.
7. Over the next 10 to 15 years new housing developments proposed within the Blaby District Core Strategy Development Plan (DPD), which are projected to provide an

additional estimated 4000 homes which will deliver an increase in population of approximately 9,000-10,000 patients between now and 2029 (see Table 1).

Table 1

Year	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
(1) Lubbethorpe	50	100	150	200	250	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	315	3270
(2) North of A47	0	0	0	0	30	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	510
Annual projected Provision	50	100	150	200	280	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	3780
Cumulative provision	50	150	300	500	780	1155	1530	1905	2280	2655	3030	3405	3780	3780
Annual projected population per year growth	120	240	360	480	672	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	9072
Cumulative population growth	120	360	720	1200	1872	2772	3672	4572	5472	6372	7272	8172	9072	9072

8. In order for ELR CCG to make an informed decision on this proposed planning, Public Health are supporting the CCG by modelling the population growth up to the end of the housing developments; this is going to support planning work, taking into consideration factors such as demography, deprivation and transport networks including Thorpe Astley, Glenfield, Braunstone and Leicester Forest East.

Primary Care within North Blaby

9. As previously mentioned, primary care provision is provided by three practices in the North Blaby area; in addition there are plans to build a Health Centre in Lubbethorpe.
10. When considering the potential development in North Blaby area, this paper focuses on two of the above three practices given Glenfield Surgery's premises are currently adequate to address its demand and capacity status. This paper therefore provides further detail on Kingsway Surgery and Leicester Forest House Medical Centre and future plans.

Kingsway Surgery

Background

11. Kingsway Surgery is located off Narborough Road in a converted house. The current number of patients registered with the practice (known as list size) is 10,457. The clinical team includes 2 Partners, 2 Salaried GPs, Nurse Practitioners and it is intended to appoint a GP in early 2018.
12. Kingsway Surgery has experienced significant changes and instability in clinical partnership over the last two years. In April 2017, the resignation of two of the three Partners triggered the CCG to undertake a quality and safety review which established that additional clinical support was required.

13. This support was provided through the ELR GP Federation using NHS England Resilience Programme funding received for the Surgery. In May 2017, the remaining Partner submitted a proposal to the CCG on the future management of the surgery which included taking on a Partner on 1st June 2017. The practice also submitted a Delivery Plan outlining the financial support sought from the CCG to make the practice sustainable. Under this Delivery Plan, Kingsway Surgery asked the CCG for financial support towards the recruitment and long term retention of two salaried GPs and one Advanced Nurse Practitioner.
14. At the same time, Kingsway Surgery applied to the CCG to close their list which means the practice would not need to register new patients for a specified period, usually for more than three months and up to 12 months. This was intended to provide an opportunity to support with management of demand and enable the practice to put plans in place that would determine sustainability.
15. Kingsway Surgery requested additional support from the CCG but then withdrew this request. The CCG agreed to commission KPMG to undertake financial audit to provide assurance that the practice's finances are stable.
16. At present the practice have assured the CCG that they are taking positive steps to recruit to the vacant posts and are meeting patient demand.

Premises

17. Kingsway Surgery premises are owned by 5 of the 7 former Partners. There are three mortgages on the property, in the names of the former partners. The current partners are in discussion with their solicitors regarding the lease. There has been conversation with the CCG on the option to purchase the premises. Prior to initiating discussion with the landlord, the practice are keen to ascertain if there are strategic plans for additional health care provision in the area to help meet the demand.
18. Kingsway Surgery is based in two converted houses. Patient facilities are limited and there is no option to extend the building any further in any direction as land is not available. In addition, Kingsway Surgery have indicated that the structure is unable to accommodate any further extensions.
19. The previous town growth in Thorpe Astley has stretched the capacity within the practice to a point where there is an immediate capacity issue.
20. There is a Community Centre in Thorpe Astley with two unused rooms specifically allocated for healthcare which were agreed by the former South Leicestershire PCT and provided by funds received under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

21. The Community Centre opened in 2010 but the healthcare rooms (which meet all required standards) have not been utilised. The reason for this is that early discussions with local practice about Thorpe Astley in the late 1990s indicated that they would be interested in running a facility on the estate. However, despite practices being asked to submit business cases to occupy the premises as a branch surgery, nothing positive has materialised, with the most recent proposal from Forest House Medical Practice in 2016 falling through. There is also pressure from Braunstone Town Council and local residents to occupy these premises.
22. Given Thorpe Astley was available for occupancy, Kingsway Surgery applied to open a branch site at this location as the current site has limited clinical rooms available therefore it is unable to provide sufficient access for their registered patient population. Therefore within their business case the practice propose to open a branch site and indicate a range of benefits at the site will include the following;
- A full range of services can be offered at both centres once equipped;
 - Both sites offer car parking although this can be stretched at Kingsway;
 - With the addition of the Nurse Practitioner and a new GP the practice will be in a position to offer 64 GP/NP appointments per week increasing to 128 within 4 months;
 - A branch site at Thorpe Astley Community Centre could potentially support the practice in recruiting GPs as part of the recruitment drive compared to the Kingsway location;
 - With the branch site, there is opportunity to offer more appointments enabling the practice to manage patients with more complex conditions;
 - The branch site would be convenient for patients who live in the Thorpe Astley area, which also has access to a local pharmacy.
 - The running costs would be minimal in the region of £1500 per year for services and an annual rent of £1.00 for the rooms;
 - The practice engaged with patients on this option and received a favourable response.
23. The immediate work is therefore focusing on the potential to use the Thorpe Astley Community Centre site as branch surgery for Kingsway practice. ELR CCG have approved the business case subject to finalisation on funding and mobilisation plans on opening the site.
24. The CCG are working collaboratively with both the Blaby and Braunstone District Council on confirming the occupation of this space by early 2018.

Forest House Medical Practice

25. Forest House Medical Centre is located within Blaby District and has a list size of 14,336 and continues to grow. The practice has 6 Partners who are keen to increase clinical capacity.

26. The practice have a large number of elderly patients some of which reside within local nursing/care homes increasing demand and for this reason the practice have previously approached the CCG for support in management of the registration of these patients. Local discussions were held with neighbouring practices to allocate specific care homes to a practice, however this fell through given that it is down to patient choice which GP Practice they are registered with.

Premises

27. The practice is currently operating from two sites with a distance of 1.3miles;
- Main site: Forest House Medical Centre which is an old building and deemed not fit for purpose;
 - Branch site: Warren Lane Surgery premises in contract are of a higher quality facility, owned by the practice and can be extended.
28. There are a number of issues with the Forest House site; it is a two story building with no lift and small consulting rooms. The practice has already reported significant capacity issues which have been discussed with the CCG.
29. When the practice manager commenced his role at Forest House in 2015, he was informed the lease had expired and has been in probate throughout this time. Currently the lease is with the estate solicitors and to date Forest House have not been informed of the situation. However, the practice solicitors have advised that there is an option for 6 – 12 months' notice period offered.
30. The CCG will continue to monitor the lease position and may need to consider alternative options on the assumption the practice are given notice. The CCG have requested assurance on how this situation will be managed based on their contingency plan which the practices solicitors have advised would facilitate the statutory notice period.
31. In a worse-case scenario, if Forest House site was given notice, the CCG are in no position to challenge and therefore unable to take action, but would propose working with the practice to ensure service provision would continue at the Warren Lane location.
32. There are plans to extend Warren Lane with Section 106 monies and National NHS Premises funding which has been granted and will be in progress this year. The practice proposed extension will enable them to meet demand and offer appropriate clinical sessions.
33. Based on this proposed extension, the CCG do not intend to build a new site in or around the location of the current Forest House Medical Centre. There is an acknowledgement that a closure may impact on some members of the population

due to the need to travel to Warren Lane, however the CCG intend to work closely with council colleagues to find ways to mitigate these concerns.

34. Warren Lane have more rooms, and current use of Forest House Medical Centre has reduced due to the poor quality premises and therefore, the majority of services are provided from Warren Lane.
35. With expansion of the Warren Lane site, this will provide adequate capacity for provision of health care services if and when the Forest House Medical Centre site closes.

Lubbesthorpe Health Centre

36. As previously detailed in this paper, there is a plan for significant increase in housing within the Lubbesthorpe area. Built into these plans is a new Health Centre which will be entirely funded through Section 106 funding and will open once approximately 1000 homes are built.
37. The site for this Health Centre has already been determined. ELR CCG, Blaby District Council and NHS England estates specialists have now started the planning process to ensure this new building is big enough and flexible for the future needs of the local patients. Although this will be a number of years away, it does ensure that the North Blaby area has adequate facilities for all local patients.

Conclusion

38. ELR CCG would like to thank the Local Authority, District Council and Town Council colleagues for their input and support in working through this plan. It is still a work in progress and will adapt where necessary to support all local patients.
39. Although the potential closure of Leicester Forest Medical site could have a significant impact, we recognise that for some patients particularly close to Leicester Forest House, we may need to work collaboratively with the council regarding the transport and access solution

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

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