

Health briefing

Area Panel 5

June 2005

Welcome to our June Health briefing

Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) work together to improve the health of people across the city, and make sure the health services they need are available. Their job is to:

- work out what is needed to improve local people's health
- provide some services themselves – such as community services including clinics, district nurses, children's services and health visitors
- buy some services from others – such as larger hospitals and specialist treatments.

The PCTs will be providing a local Health Briefing for each Area Panel meeting. If you have any questions you can either direct them through the Area Panel manager, Richard Smail on 01332 258505 or contact us direct: Debbie Jackson, Associate Director, Central and Greater Derby PCTs, Derwent Court, Stuart Street, Derby DE1 2FZ

In this issue you'll find details of:

- Patient Choice
- Walk In Centre

Patient Choice

Patient Choice is being improved in the NHS and more and more patients will be able to choose where they want to go to for their care. For some areas, such as orthopaedics and eye surgery, patients can choose from four or five places including both NHS and independent hospitals or treatment centres.

When you visit your GP or optician about orthopaedics or eye care and they decide you need to be referred to a specialist, they will send your details to a new Southern Derbyshire Patient Choice Centre. A Patient Choice Advisor will contact you and discuss which hospital or treatment centre you want to go to for your care. They will be able to tell you:

- which hospitals or treatment centres you can choose from
- how to get to each place and information about parking
- what the waiting time is at each of the places
- what other services are offered.

The Patient Choice Advisor will also be able to answer other non-medical questions to help you choose which hospital or treatment centre to choose. You may want to be close to home or prefer to go somewhere with a shorter waiting time – the choice is yours.

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You don't have to decide immediately and can ask the Advisor to call you back when you've had the chance to chat with family/friends about it. Once you have decided your referral will be passed to the hospital or treatment centre you chose and they will get in touch with you to arrange an appointment.

This sort of choice is only available for some treatments at the moment, but is being rolled out across the NHS so that eventually there will be a choice for all sorts of treatments.

Walk in Centre on the way

Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts are working with Derby Hospitals Foundation Trust to design and build a Walk in Centre on the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary site. NHS Walk in Centres are designed to provide quick access to health promotion and advice and treatment for minor ailments. The Centre will initially be open from 7am to 9pm every day.

The Walk in Centre will also be home to GP services including the out of hours service which is currently located on Duffield Road. Social Services will also re-locate some of the reception and screening services currently based at St Mary's Gate and the Careline – out of hours services, to provide a 24 hour assessment service from the Derby Walk in Centre. There is also scope to include voluntary and community groups within the building.

This arrangement provides an opportunity to be innovative and create a centre that brings together health and social services, 24 hours a day. More information about the Walk in Centre will be available as plans are firmed up.

In the meantime, if you would like to be involved in a User Group for the Centre,

which will give views on the new Centre once it is up and running, please send your contact details to Debbie Jackson, Central and Greater Derby PCTs, Derwent Court, Stuart Street, Derby DE1 2FZ stating that you would like to join the Walk In Centre User Group.

Link Director:
Trish Thompson

Link Non-executive Directors:
Moir Kerr/Ali Naqwi

Contact via Derwent Court –
01332 224000