

Health briefing

Area Panel Three

November 2005

Welcome to our November 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 - telephone 01332 224000 extension 6360.

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Patient-led NHS

As you may have seen in the local press, the Department of Health are looking for a reorganisation of PCTs as part of creating a patient-led NHS. This will mean a greater focus on commissioning services – that is assessing need and buying services from others – rather than providing services directly. There is also an expectation that there will be fewer, larger PCTs in future. Following discussion with all PCTs locally the options for this in Derbyshire were identified as:

- a single Derbyshire wide organisation, or
- separate city and county PCTs.

The Trent Strategic Health Authority (SHA) considered the final proposals alongside the plans from Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire at their public Board meeting on 20 September. Following this meeting the SHA prepared their submissions to the Department of Health and recommended the two options for Derbyshire to be considered for public consultation. At present, the SHA is recommending a single commissioning body for the whole of the county as a preferred option.

We are now awaiting feedback from the Department of Health, which will be followed by a public consultation on the proposed developments.

Normanton GP practice

Dr J Paul will be retiring from his practice in the next few months. The PCTs are advertising both locally and nationally to ensure medical service provision for the practice population.

In the meantime a team of GP locums and additional sessions from our nurse practitioner team will ensure services are maintained for the patients registered with Dr Paul. These arrangements will continue until a final solution is determined.

Patients should continue to attend Normanton Medical Centre as usual. If you have any concerns or wish to discuss any of the above comments in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on Freephone 08000 32 32 35.

Contact

Area Panels are welcome to contact the PCT with questions, or to invite a representative from the PCT to speak at an Area Panel meeting if there is a particular subject of interest to the Panel.