

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

EQUITABLE ACCESS IN PRIMARY CARE - UPDATE

1. BACKGROUND

The “Equitable Access in Primary Care” programme is a Department of Health procurement process by which PCT’s in NHS North East aim to expand capacity and improve access to primary care services in their area. The Trust has applied, working with partners in primary care, to be a provider of the new services as part of its business strategy to deliver fully integrated services to the local population.

NHS “North of Tyne” undertook an extensive public consultation to seek views on where new Health Centres and GP practices should be located and the service content. The outcome of the consultation exercise is a proposal to develop new health centres in the following locations:

- Cowgate/Blakelaw, Newcastle,
- Battle Hill and the surrounding area (north of the Coast Road), North Tyneside,
- Cramlington, Northumberland.

In addition, there will be a further two new GP practices – one in the heart of Walker and the other in the Scotswood/Benwell area.

2. PROCUREMENT PROCESS/ TIMETABLE

The Trust submitted a formal application to be considered as a provider for the Newcastle and North Tyneside schemes in July 2008 and was notified on 8th September 2008 that it was shortlisted to proceed to the full tendering stage. The tenders were submitted on 24th October 2008.

Northumberland Care Trust has recently also invited expressions of interest and preliminary applications for the GP Led Health Centre by 21st November 2008 and consideration is being given to this opportunity.

The Newcastle and North Tyneside Primary Care Trusts are expected to make a decision with respect to their preferred bidder during the first week in December 2008 and, subject to final contractual negotiations, the new services will be provided from 1st April 2009. The timescales for Northumberland are running slightly later, with service commencement not required until December 2009.

A Project Team has been established which is responsible for ensuring the necessary preparations are in place during the tendering and operational planning phases.

3. Summary

Governors are requested to receive this report for information and note the progress being made.

Pam McDougall
Project Lead
14th November 2008