

## **Review of NHS Sheffield's Commitment to an Intermediate Care Facility**

### **1. Introduction**

This paper reviews the position with regard to the planned intermediate care facility, identifies the factors influencing progress, and proposes a timetable for reviewing requirements for a facility.

### **2. Background**

In May 2008 the NHS Sheffield Board approved a strategic direction which described a new model of intermediate care in the city, to improve the organisation of services, to provide care at home in the first instance and where that is not possible, to provide care in a new community facility.

One component of the plan was a new single site 120 bedded unit intended to bring together the existing dispersed bed capacity, to provide intermediate care to patients either as a "step down" from acute hospital care or as a "step up" from their own homes, together with a day unit to replace the facilities at Nether Edge Hospital.

To test the concept, a 30 bedded prototype unit was established at Beech Hill in April 2009 focussing on 'step down' specialist Stroke and Ortho-medical rehabilitation. This enabled testing, evaluation and proof of concept of the proposed bedded facility. It is clear from clinician feedback that this model of care is effective in delivering high quality clinical support and confirms the benefits of commissioning a single site solution to provide specialist intermediate care.

Community 1<sup>st</sup> Sheffield Ltd (LIFT Co) has been instructed to search for a site in Sheffield suitable for the development of a new Intermediate Care Facility. The LIFT Co has undertaken a comprehensive search for an appropriate site. 21 options have been assessed, many of them several times, but NHS Sheffield CCG has yet to identify a site upon which to progress the 120 bedded facility. The key issues with unsuitable sites have been size, availability, access and public transport links.

These plans were made prior to the current NHS Reforms being proposed, and at a time when NHS Sheffield still had responsibility for providing community based health care.

The role and provision of intermediate care services is being re-examined within the Right First Time programme. There has been some consolidation of intermediate care beds with the closure of the Hazelhurst and Sevenfields resource centres, with replacement nursed capacity being commissioned within STH's provision of intermediate care.

### 3. Review

Given the above, and the anticipated establishment of NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group in April 2013, which will inherit responsibility for commissioning intermediate care, it is appropriate to formally review current plans for an intermediate care facility.

The review should address the following issues, in the light of the experience of the Right First time programme and the impact it makes on patient flows and demand for hospital care:

- Is the clinical model of inpatient step up and step down intermediate care still the right one?
- If so, how many beds are required, to meet current and future demand?
- Is the proposed model of one facility for the city still the best clinical model to meet patients' needs?
- In light of the number of sites identified and assessed so far, is one facility a practical aspiration?
- How should the CCG commission inpatient intermediate care? If a new facility is needed, who should be responsible for procuring the appropriate building or buildings, given the current exclusivity arrangements entered into by NHS Sheffield?

### 4. Timetable

This review should be informed by the outcome of the Right First Time work and experience of the operation of the new model of inpatient intermediate care commissioned following closure of the resource centres. To ensure that the benefits of both are realised and taken into account, the following timetable is proposed.

1. Manage transition for closure of resource centre beds to ensure that there are 123 nursed beds with consistent level of therapy input - complete by end of August 2012
2. Interim evaluation of the impact of transition arrangements in light of wider system flow delivered through RFT programme- by January 2013
3. Full review - June 2013

Therefore the full review would take place in June 2013, i.e. after 12 months operation of the new model.

Tim Furness  
Associate Director of Business Planning and Partnerships  
September 2012