

14 Housing

Both sections of housing would be aimed at long-term rental for public sector workers. Local prices are proving a significant barrier to recruit and retain the best staff. In particular, there is a great shortage of two to three bedroom homes for young professionals or those with young families. This would reduce pressures on the local housing market and help meet the council's wider objectives for affordable housing. At this stage, it is proposed that there will be around 80 terrace houses and flats, at two or three storeys, to fit with neighbouring property heights and the

appropriate amount of parking. RBCH is already a provider of 200 rented units and is aware of the demand from its own staff for this kind of accommodation.

Overall site issues

The services on site to supply electricity, gas, water and the engineering behind these is now very out of date. A thorough review of what needs replacement is expected to identify ways to reduce carbon emissions and energy costs.

We plan to introduce the following additional services and improvements Christchurch Hospital.

New eye service at Christchurch Hospital

A new community clinic for eye treatments will open in 2012, where patients with certain eye conditions will be offered quick, local services with quality assurance from the specialist eye doctors at Bournemouth Eye Unit. Surgical care will remain at Bournemouth Hospital and GPs will advise on where care is most appropriately provided. RBCH eye doctors now provide advice and guidance to GPs to reduce unnecessary appointments and also re-bookings, saving patients' time and improving access to the right services.

New physio service for Christchurch residents

Local GPs and the RBCH physiotherapy team at Christchurch Hospital have worked together to create a new service which puts the patient in charge. The self-referral scheme allows an initial referral from a GP, or other health professional, to NHS physiotherapy for back pain or other common conditions. After that, patients can book themselves in for extra sessions at any point they want. For more information, see leaflets at your Christchurch GP or the Physiotherapy department at Christchurch.

What happens next?

- **Public consultation on these proposals, as part of the RBCH Annual Strategy Update, will run from 1st February to 25 April 2012.**
- **A dedicated project team of RBCH staff and external experts will then work up detailed plans in 2012.**
- **Buildings that have no viable future will be removed in a phased way, so as to maintain services, with the first ward buildings (J,K,M and possibly H) going in 2012.**
- **Work to select the preferred partner for commercial aspects of the scheme (e.g. Nursing Home, Nursery etc.) will start in early 2012, so they are involved in detailed design work.**
- **Staff will be consulted to see the level of interest in key worker accommodation.**

Contact us

This is our third newsletter. If you would like to receive it electronically, or need more paper versions, please get in touch.

You can also register on our staff and stakeholders interested list to receive email updates. Email us at communications@rbch.nhs.uk

If you would like to ask a question, you can: Email: communications@rbch.nhs.uk or write to: **Richard Renaut, Director of Service Development, B43, the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, BH7 7DW**

Christchurch Hospital NEWS

February - April 2012

Securing local health services in Christchurch

We want to hear your views on proposals to regenerate Christchurch Hospital; to secure all current clinical services and add a range of other community facilities, including a large GP practice.

Following a public consultation held early in 2011, we have been looking at the best options to meet four objectives:

- secure our services in Christchurch
- be affordable
- pass council planning approval
- add other facilities for community benefit

The proposals rely on reducing the number of empty or part-used buildings at Christchurch Hospital to create savings on maintenance, utilities and capital charges. Providers of new services would contribute to the running costs of the site, allowing the Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch hospitals to keep its services on site and potentially expand these, including:

- More imaging services, such as Ultrasound and Dexa, reducing trips to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.
- A dedicated epidurals and infusion suite.
- Capacity to expand clinics, such as for eye care (see back page).

"The main change will be in the buildings not the services," said Medical Director, Dr Mary Armitage. "Securing the services on site, in improved facilities and bringing in others, such as a GP surgery, pharmacy and key worker accommodation, means this is a good proposal all round."



The Trust's Board of Directors agreed that the proposal was the best way to meet the objectives. Considerable work is now needed to work up the detailed scheme and full costings. This process will take about a year. Before that, your views are needed on the outline proposal, as part of the RBCH Annual Strategy update consultation.



Dr Steve Tomkins, GP at the Grove Surgery said: "This is an excellent opportunity to improve local services, especially given the lack of space GPs have to meet the rising population. A high quality nursing home will also be of great benefit to the community."

Tony Spotswood, Chief Executive of RBCH said: "We are grateful for the continued support of Christchurch residents, the Council and those who volunteer and donate to support services in Christchurch.

"We do need to remove empty buildings, some that have been vacant for three years, because there is no use for them that fits with modern healthcare standards for privacy and infection control.

"This proposal represents the better alternative than relocating everything to Bournemouth, and has added benefits of creating extra jobs and investment in the local economy."

Key Proposals:

- **RBCH NHS services secured.**
- **Macmillan Unit remains.**
- **The Grove GP Surgery relocates and expands.**
- **NHS Dentist, pharmacy, opticians and nursing home.**
- **Key worker (rental) accommodation by public sector staff.**
- **Children's nursery.**
- **Green space on Fairmile Road retained and improved.**

Putting patients first

The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

1 Expanded green at front

Moving front car parking spaces to create a better visual of the site and providing extra spaces at the rear of buildings. There is potential to make more use of the green at the front of the hospital as a public, open space. One idea is to create a trim trail to encourage outdoor exercise, but other ideas and comments are sought.

2 Children's nursery

We will introduce a purpose-built, independently run facility. Currently there is a shortage of spaces for the rising number of children in Christchurch. The two storey, new building design will be sympathetic to the surrounding area.

3 Nursing home

The Christchurch Hospital site is a high profile location in Christchurch and the design will need to reflect this. There will need to be extensive work to get this right, before any planning application is made. The current building has been empty for three years - no amount of money will be able to make this meet modern healthcare requirement as the building is not wide enough, and the water, heating and other essentials are not appropriate. A new purpose-built facility with 21st Century standards of space and dignity, as well as being more environmentally friendly, will be created.

An 80-room home, spread over three storeys with a terraced area overlooking the green, would be a high-quality nursing home, while close links with local health services will support an excellent provision of care. Research shows a lack of dementia facilities to meet the growing demand and this is the most likely specialist provision. The independent operator for the nursing home will be selected through a competitive process, with the NHS remaining the land owner.

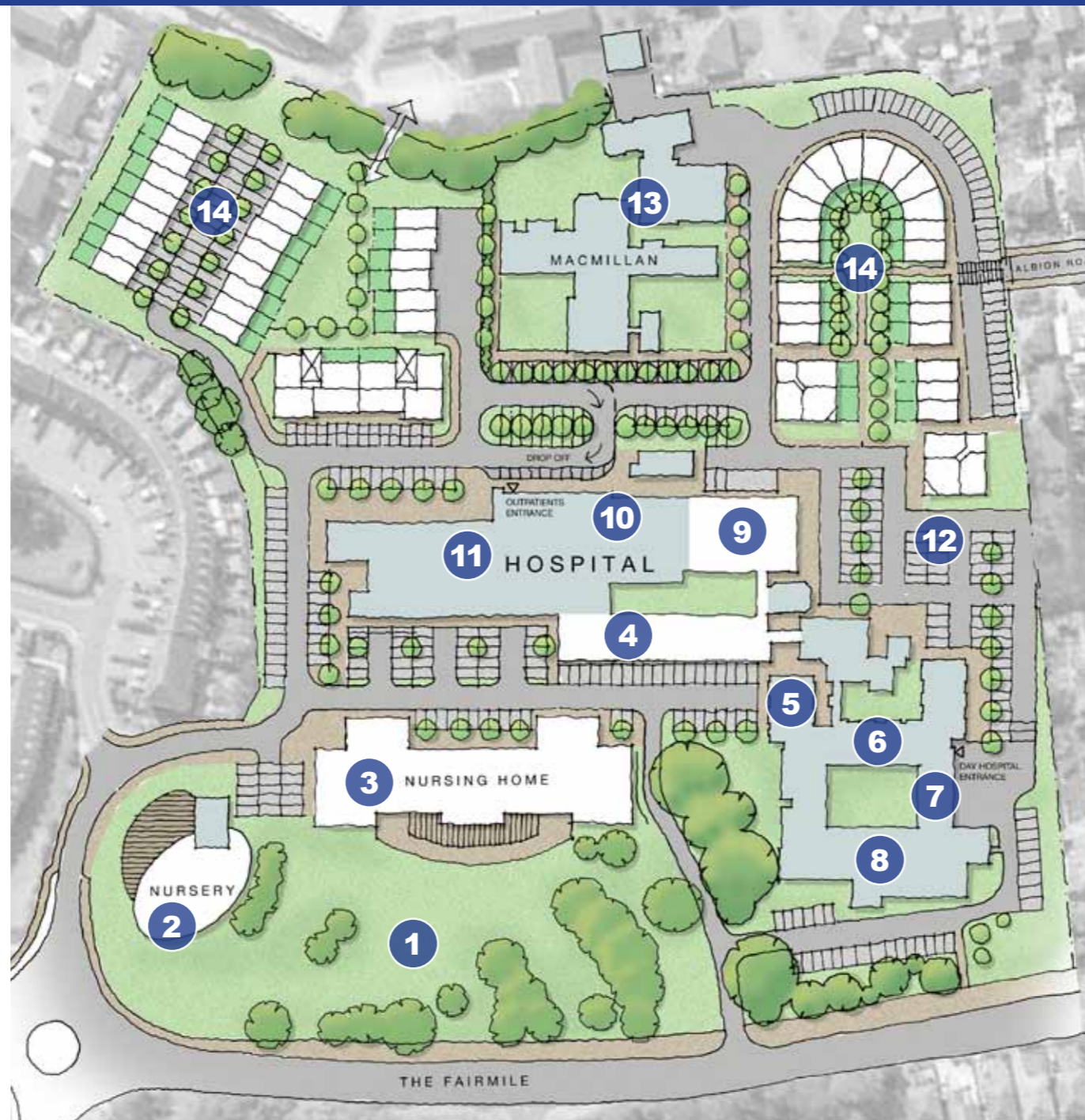
Typically, such a development creates around 80 new jobs, therefore supporting the local economy.

4 GP practice and pharmacy

The Grove Surgery would relocate to a larger purpose-built facility. There are also plans for additional consulting rooms that could provide additional community health service clinics. The possibility of an opticians and pharmacy would also be explored.

5 NHS dentist

This service has been running from here for a year and has proved very popular.



6 Day Hospital

This award-winning service prevents emergency admissions to hospital and supports people after they leave hospital. The NHS patient transport service makes access to the day hospital easy, and the availability of the expert team of doctors, nurses and therapists works well. An intensive refurbishment of the Forest Dene area will also include making best use of the sheltered garden area, with sensory facilities as part of the therapy.

7 Epidural and infusions suite

A dedicated purpose-designed facility will enable us to provide the specific care needs for Rheumatology and other patients in a single, more pleasant environment.

8 Dermatology

This specialist unit provides services for Bournemouth, Christchurch, the New Forest and East Dorset. The service will stay where it is but some alterations to improve the environment will be considered as part of the next stage of work.

9 Imaging department

Many local residents use the x-ray and ultrasound facility at Christchurch Hospital. A newly built or heavily refurbished department, in a new location, would also allow us to review if we can provide more one-stop clinics. We would consider placing Dexa scanning here instead of Bournemouth, given that this is used to measure bone strength and so is often used by rheumatology, the day hospital and falls clinic.

10 Therapy

The building would remain largely unchanged, but the service is being developed (see back page).

11 Outpatients

The building would remain, but the layout and use of rooms will be reviewed. RBCH services would remain including phlebotomy (blood taking). The need to provide a new entrance and tea bar/café, will allow us to see if we can improve the layout and help how clinics are run. The café would replace the current Trust provided restaurant.

12 Car parking

These drawings are indicative only. Detailed transport studies will be undertaken, and we will work with council planning officials to ensure the correct number of spaces are included. The area marked 12 indicates staff parking, so that visitor spaces are nearer clinical services. Drop-off and disabled parking will also need sensitive placing. Premium bays to encourage car sharing will also be considered and the successful volunteer driving schemes will be encouraged. Non-car use will also be encouraged with sufficient secure bike storage and lockers.

13 Macmillan Unit

Following a review of specialist services in East Dorset by NHS Bournemouth and Poole, the recommendation to retain this important service, has been made. There are improvements planned, including more support and training for general palliative care provision and closer integration on policies and on-call arrangements with Poole Hospital's service at Forest Holme.

These plans provide greater screening by fence and trees to increase the privacy and exclusion of the unit.

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