



3rd January 2020

James Sandy
Scrutiny Officer
Sandwell Borough Council
By Email
James_sandy@sandwell.go.uk

Dental Services Division
Birmingham Dental Hospital & School of
Dentistry
Birmingham Community Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust
5 Mill Pool Way
Edgbaston
Birmingham B5 7EG
Tel: 0121 466 5303
Fax: 0121 466 5151

Dear James

I am writing on behalf of Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BCHC) Dental Services Division to follow up on a proposed change of location for where it currently provides services under General Anaesthesia (GA) for Children in Sandwell General Hospital to Birmingham Dental Hospital in 2022.

We informed you about this proposed change on 20th December 2017 and at that point Sandwell MBC did not raise objection or request further information about the proposed change. However, the Trust is now at the point that we are finalising our full business case to develop new Theatres immediately adjacent to Birmingham Dental Hospital and, assuming this is approved by our Board, BCHC will be entering a Heads of Terms agreement to lease, setting into motion the new build project. This letter is therefore being sent as a courtesy to ensure that the Health Over and Scrutiny Committee is aware of progress in relation to this project and provide an opportunity to make comment or seek clarification about the effect on Sandwell patients.

The Trust currently provides Secondary and Community Dental Services for all West Midland patients within Birmingham Dental Hospital as well within community locations across Birmingham, Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley. The Trust has endeavoured to

maintain services under General Anaesthesia not just within Birmingham Dental Hospital, but also through usage of theatres within the following locations:

Paediatric Patients

Birmingham Dental Hospital
Sandwell General Hospital, Sandwell
Walsall Manor Hospital, Walsall

Special Care Patients

Birmingham Dental Hospital

As previously outlined, there are various problems the service faces which pose a risk to the service configuration above:

- Birmingham Dental Hospital Theatre is based within a building with temporary planning permission granted on the basis that a permanent solution would be found.
- Walsall Manor have over the last two years reduced the theatre capacity available to the Dental Service for the last two winters
- Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust have indicated that they will not be able to provide theatre space at Sandwell General Hospital in the long term.

The Trust has identified a preferred option to enter into a lease agreement to take space in a new development being built by Calthorpe Estates on a plot adjacent to the new Dental Hospital. The current proposal being prepared will be to lease space in this new development to provide two theatres and relocate GA services currently from Sandwell General. The Trust is aiming to maintain access to Walsall Manor Hospital.

The following outlines the key benefits of the new facilities and the case for centralising GA services into this location:

- High quality, purpose built facilities to meet the needs of the service and enhance the user's experience. The service at Birmingham Dental Hospital is and will continue to be provided by a specialist Paediatric and Special Care Dental Consultant team supported by Consultant Anaesthetists from both University Hospital Birmingham NHS FT and Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital NHS FT.
- Provides long term stability of the service and ensure BCHC has the capacity to provide this service in the same location for many years to come
- Increased theatre capacity to help reduce waiting times for Sandwell patients as well as across the West Midlands
- Create a centre of excellence for these services and support the Dental Hospital training programme

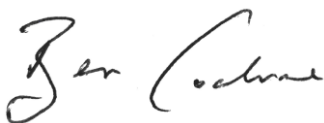
It is also important to make the Committee aware that this does not mean the complete withdrawal of BCHC outpatient Dental services from Sandwell General Hospital. The Trust will continue to provide all other services including those provided under sedation and have recently enjoyed the benefit of upgraded facilities within the hospital. The ideal pathway for both adults and children is to only receive dental services under GA as a last resort. BCHC is therefore well placed to ensure that all other services including those provided under sedation are provided locally either at Sandwell General Hospital, the Lyng Health Centre, Oldbury Health Centre or Glebefields Health Centre.

The downside to this course of action is that these services will no longer be provided as close to home for some Sandwell patients. However, to a large extent the option to continue to deliver services in its current form is not a viable option.

I have copied this letter to NHS England Commissioners and Public Health England colleagues who are fully aware and supportive of this project.

If you could please let me know if you have any further question or if this does or does not need to go to HOSC (my contact details are shown below), we would be grateful for a response as soon as possible in January due to the timescales we are working to. We are aiming to approve our Business Case by the end of March 2020.

Yours Sincerely



Ben Cochrane
Divisional Director Dental Services

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: Ben.Cochrane2@bhamcommunity.nhs.uk

