



MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Latest news

Community Health Hub

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A co-ordinated approach to Maldon's new Community Health Hub is taking shape.

A project Board comprising Maldon District Council and health partners, including Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), local GP's and patient groups are working closely together to bring forward an affordable solution to meet both community and primary health (GP) needs for the Maldon District.

Work is underway to assess requirements for the Schedule of Accommodation against current activity predictions and the proposed model of care. This work takes account of the CCG's Home First Strategy which seeks to provide homecare packages providing the right level of support to enable patients to be treated and cared for in their own homes, freeing up acute hospital beds for those with the greatest need.

The project, which takes account of both existing primary care needs and growth arising from new housing developments in Maldon and Heybridge, is planning for a new GP surgery in the new North Heybridge Garden Suburb and a new Health Hub situated in or around Maldon which will include both community and primary care facilities. Options to provide an independent living (extra care) housing scheme and possibly a nursing home alongside the new Health Hub are also being looked at.

Mid Essex Hospitals Trust (MEHT) who own the current St Peter's Hospital site, are part of the discussions looking at the provision of services for a new Health Hub on alternative site.

Maldon District Council's Chief Executive, Fiona Marshall, said; "I am pleased that the

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discussions about health provision and a new Community Health Hub for the District are really starting to take shape. The Council has been instrumental in ensuring that a co-ordinated and joined up approach is taken which is critical to the success of delivering a Health Hub. I am confident that we have the commitment from all of our partners to deliver a package of first class health services to the residents of the District and I look forward to seeing this progress.”

Dr Caroline Dollery, Chair of Mid Essex CCG, said: “We look forward to continuing the collaboration with patient representatives and others involved in the project board to ensure that we can shape plans for services that support people to receive care at home wherever possible.”

A spokesperson for the Blackwater and Longfield Patient Reference Group, added; “We are enthused by the process that is actually starting to make positive ground in planning the new Maldon Community Health Hub. The resources of those who deliver primary health care have never been so stretched and the demands so high. However, the multi-agency Board which is tasked with providing the new Health Hub is working well together. From a patient perspective, it is vital that representatives convey the fears and hopes of patients. But we must additionally be mindful of the extreme pressures which health providers have been placed under. Patient representatives will continue to capture the broader engagement of Patient Group members who themselves represent the wider patient cohort. Our role, alongside that of District Councillors and officers is to strive to obtain the best possible outcomes in challenging times. We have a duty not to allow the dilution of services to patients in the Maldon area.

The role of health providers is to meet health demand within tight budget constraints. No-one has the authority to irresponsibly squander public money.

To date, hours of discussion has resulted in a project structure, an outline of the ongoing programme and what we need to take to a potential developer.

What we must attempt is to get the best possible provision with the money available. We will also work to keep the general public better informed.

Some people have spoken of continuing to use St. Peter's Hospital to deliver services from. However, one major infrastructure problem is it could close due to the expense of operating from an ageing building.

The project is moving forward. But there are a number of crucial inputs and stages which, if not sensitively managed, can cause delay or even cancellation. The NHS agencies and Maldon District Council have committed to give more regular updates for the benefit of the community.”

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